WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year

1954

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BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1954 - the twentieth of a series of such reports upon the work carried out by your Sanitary Department.

Improvements in environmental hygiene in the last 50 years have contributed to our substantially improved public health standards. The contribution that has been made by local and central government to produce our present standards are recognised. The creation of a sanitary environment, however, is not limited to the supervision of buildings and their furnishings, which are used by individuals either privately or in public, but centres also on the cleanliness and purity of food, drink, and atmospheric conditions, and extends to cover most things which form part of the everyday life of our people.

It is, however, unfortunate that there is not that knowledgeable public appreciation of the multifarious duties undertaken by a sanitary department towards the maintenance and improvement of environmental conditions. Our work brings us into very close contact with the community, but in enforcing improved conditions the sanitary officer occasionally finds himself clashing with vested interests that tend to make him unpopular. It is here that the Officer's personal qualities of tact, courage, knowledge and ability reflect themselves. The majority of the public are disinterested until they, themselves, fall victims of a food poisoning outbreak, some preventable illness, atmospheric pollution or other discomforting features brought about by the neglect of environmental conditions. I have previously said that it is often the practice to praise and reward Officers for their activities in fighting an outbreak of infectious disease or cases of food poisoning, but no acclamation follows a year or period of freedom from infection due to stringent supervision of environmental conditions and personal cleanliness. The former possesses an atmosphere which is absent in the humdrum duties of routine enforcement.

Council has always been alive to the need and maintenance of good sanitary conditions and was kind enough during the year to agree to an additional inspector to the establishment of the Department. The ever increasing demands made on our services consequent upon the housing and industrial development of the Borough made such an appointment necessary.

Much attention throughout the year was given to housing conditions, atmospheric pollution and food supplies - meat inspection and the extensive sampling of foods, including water and milk. This report serves as a brief record of our many activities during a year of steady yet continuing progress.

The presentation of the report affords me an opportunity once again, of thanking Council and its Public Health Committee for the help they have readily given throughout the year; of expressing my appreciation to the Chief Officers of Council Departments, particularly the Medical Officer of Health - Dr. D. H. J. Williams, for their very cordial co-operation throughout the year on matters of mutual interest, and to the members of the Staff of your Sanitary Department for their continued loyalty and good service.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

STAFF OF SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

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G. A. MORGAN
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
(C.R.S.I. & C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector, C.I.H. & C.R.S.I. School Hygiene and Physiology General Hygiene Diploma, Institute of Hygiene, Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales. Fellow Royal Sanitary Institute. Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association).

L. J. CARTER
District Sanitary Inspector.
(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

S. TAYLOR
District Sanitary Inspector.
(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector, Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales. C.R.S.I. as Meat & Food Inspector).

I. G. HEYCOCK
District Sanitary Inspector.
(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

T. T. REES
District Sanitary Inspector.
(C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

W. GEORGE
Drain Tester & Disinfector.

E. DUMMER
Rodent Operative.

MISS DAPHNE BROWN
Clerk.

MISS BETTY LEWIS
Clerk.

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Report of Mr. G. A. Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Factories and Housing Acts.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Housing inspections and re-inspections	3398
Structural defects	3069
Drains, yards, urinals and W.C's	2378
Common Lodging Houses	54
Amusement houses, cinemas, etc	48
Verminous premises	438
Dirty conditions	433
Accumulations	167
Ashpits, privies and cesspools	27
Tents, vans and sheds	35
Dairies and milk shops	95
Food premises, kitchens and vehicles	2059
Houses let in lodgings, tenements, etc	134
Offensive trades	37
Fish friers	38
Ice cream premises and vehicles	171
Bakehouses	73
Factories	225
Schools	39
Pigstyes and swine keeping	81
Stables, refuse and manure	132
Rats and mice	2179
Atmospheric pollution	229
Animals improperly kept	486
Meat and food inspection	868
Slaughterhouse	350
Water supplies	373
Water sampling	355
Food and drugs sampling	227
Milk sampling	85
Other nuisances	101
Interviews	976
Infectious Disease Enquiries	90
Police Court attendances	31
Shops, offices, etc	774
Overcrowded dwellings	25
Public convenience s	41
Public houses	47
Grand Total -	20,368

HOUSING INSPECTIONS:

No. of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	584
No. of visits of inspection in respect of same	3257
No. of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	504
No. of houses rendered fit after service of Notices	493

Some of the houses found not in all respects fit for habitation in the latter part of 1954 would not be rendered fit until some time in 1955, also some of the houses rendered fit in 1954 followed notices served in the latter part of 1953.

The number of nuisances discovered, together with the number of Notices served, during the year were as follows:-

Nature of Inspection.	Nuisances Discovered	Informal Notices Served	Abatement Notices Served
Structural defects	294	294	101
Drains, yards, W.C.'s	181	181	88
Dirty conditions	24	24	4
Pigstyes and swine keeping	11	11	5
Water supplies	49	49	12
Accumulations	16	16	5
Food premises	38	38	-
Rats and mice	326	6	-
Verminous infestations	24	24	-
Factories	39	4	-
Tenements	23	23	3
Other nuisances	4	4	1
Stables, refuse and manure	6	6	4
Animals improperly kept	3	3	3
Shops and offices	9	9	3
Tents, vans and sheds	3	3	-
	1050	695	229

The work carried out to abate the various nuisances discovered was was follows:-

NATURE OF WORK DONE:

HOUSES:

Walls repaired	26
Outside plastering repaired	31
Inside plastering repaired	63
Floors renewed or repaired	49
Floors ventilated	6
Roofs renewed or repaired	94
Shoots, downpipes or gutters, repaired or renewed	111
Chimneys repaired	12
Ceilings repaired	43
Doors and frames repaired	54
Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved	1
Window sashes or frames, renewed or repaired	124
Window cords renewed	29
Staircases repaired	4
Grates or ovens repaired or renewed	19
Boilers provided or repaired	1
Outbuildings repaired	13
Walls or ceilings cleansed and redecorated	4
Bedding cleansed or destroyed	23
Rooms treated for vermin	37
Overcrowding abated	4
Yard paving relaid or repaired	44
Nuisances from animals abated	3
Accumulations removed	16
Water supply provided	6
Water taps or pipes renewed	11
Miscellaneous Repairs and nuisances	41
Washup sinks provided	14
Skirting boards repaired or renewed	31

DRAINAGE:

Drains tested - smoke	18
Drains relaid	11
Drains repaired	45
Drains cleansed	61
Inspecting or intercepting chambers provided or repaired	4
Intercepting traps fixed	1
Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	9
Gullies fixed	4
Sinks trapped or wastepipes repaired	8
Wash hand basins trapped or wastepipes repaired	2

W.C's:

Additional W.C's provided	14
W.C's constructed	5
Lighting and ventilation improved	2
New pans and traps fixed	31
W.C's cleansed	1
Flushing apparatus provided	24
Flushing apparatus repaired	39
Miscellaneous repairs	4
Seats provided or repaired	19

CESSPOOLS:

Abolished and house connected to sewer	2
Emptied	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:

Limewashing or cleansing carried out	2
Bedding renewed	4
W.C's repaired	1
Other repairs	4

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

No. of houses infested with bed bugs	24
No. of houses disinfested	18

EARTH OR PAIL CLOSETS:

Abolished	1

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS:

Removed	4

RATS AND MICE:

Infestations removed	326
Rat and mice proofing carried out	5
Free treatment of dwelling houses	257

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 AND CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS MADE THEREUNDER:

In the previous report reference was made to works carried out in the Licensed Premises under the provisions of the Clean Food Byelaws, etc. The following is a list of work carried out at certain other food premises in the Borough during the year.

BAKEHOUSES:

Lighting or ventilation improved	2
Washup sinks fixed	4
Floors and yards repaired	3
Walls repaired	8
Roofs, shoots and downspouts repaired	1
W.C.accommodation, provided or improved	4
Washing facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	4
Accumulations removed	3
Wastepipe and traps provided to sinks	1
Ceilings repaired or underdrawn	3

BUTCHERS PREMISES:

Inside drain inlets abolished	3
Lighting or ventilation improved	5
Washup sinks fixed	7
Miscellaneous repairs	3
Floors and yards repaired	2
Walls repaired	7
Drains repaired or relaid	1
W.C.accommodation provided or improved	3
Washing facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	12
Accumulations removed	2
Wastepipes and traps provided to sinks	1
Ceilings repaired or underdrawn	5

WET FISH PREMISES:

Washup sinks fixed	1
Miscellaneous repairs	6
Floors and yards repaired	1
Walls repaired	7
Roofs, shoots and downpipes repaired	1
W.C. accommodation provided or improved	1
Washing facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	8
Accumulations removed	4
Ceilings repaired or underdrawn	1

GROCERS PREMISES:

Washup facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	4
Walls, floors and windows repaired	5
Ventilation improved	3
Roof repaired	2
Yard area repaired	2
Sanitary accommodation, improved or repaired	2
Redecoration carried out	5
Protection to displayed food stuffs provided	3
Sink wastepipe repaired	1
Ceilings underdrawn	1

CAFE PREMISES:

Redecoration carried out	1
Protection to displayed foodstuffs improved	1
Wallplaster repaired	1
Ceiling plaster repaired	1
Roof repaired	1

FISH FRYING PREMISES:

Washup facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	1

REPAIR OF HOUSE PROPERTY:

The expeditious repair of house property has become somewhat difficult. Building tradesmen are fully employed on the erection of new houses and very few craftsmen are available for general house repair work. When one is obliged to institute Police Court proceedings we invariably find the owners complaining of their inability to secure tradesmen to comply with the requirements of our notices. The Magistrates, being aware of the circumstances, invariably adjourn consideration of our cases.

The time is fast approaching when Council will be obliged to set up a "Property Repairs Department" which could be utilized to undertake work when owners are unable to comply with our requirements, due to their inability to secure the services of private tradesmen. The present circumstances not only causes delay in the completion of the necessary repairs but increases the work of the Department.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

An important part of the duties of your Sanitary Inspectors is the inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir. Here the whole of the meat for this Borough and the three adjoining areas is examined. The quantity of diseased and unsound meat condemned at this Abattoir during the year was as follows:-

BULLS, BULLOCKS & HEIFERS.

Total Killed 2590
Total Inspected 2590

TUBERCULOSIS:

Carcases and all organs	3	Forequarters	3
Part Hindquarters	1	Short Forequarters	3
Heads and Tongues	48	Lungs	87
Livers	10	Mesenteries & Intestines	66
Spleens	1	Skirts	2

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

1 Carcase and all organs - Fever (Acute).

8 Part Forequarters - 6 Bruising; 2 Abscesses.

4 Part Hindquarters - 3 Bruising; 1 Fracture.

47 Heads & Tongues - 31 Actinomycosis; 14 C.Bovis; 2 Abscesses.

782 Lungs - 464 Pleurisy; 27 Pneumonia; 71 Hydatid Cysts; 3 Abscesses; 200 Congestion; 6 Parasitic; 9 Emphysema; 2 Melanosis.

7 Tongues - Fibrosis.

70 Hearts - 58 Pericarditis; 12 C. Bovis.

835 Livers - 459 Distomatosis; 145 Cirrhosis; 73 Angiomata; 21 Degeneration; 14 Parasitic; 6 Bacterial Necrosis; 12 Hydatid Cysts; 57 Abscesses; 41 Peritonitis; 4 Carcinomata; 1 Fatty Infiltration; 2 Hepatitis.

791 Part Livers - 500 Cirrhosis; 281 Distomatosis; 4 Angiomata; 6 Parasitic.

39 Skirts - 33 Pleurisy/Peritonitis; 4 Abscesses; 1 C. Bovis.

BULLS, BULLOCKS & HEIFERS (CONTD): DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

23 Hearts - 16 Pericarditis; 6 C.Bovis; 1 Myo-Carditis.

129 Spleens - 126 Peritonitis; 2 Haemorrhagic; 1 Cyst.

37 Kidneys - 31 Nephritis; 5 Abscesses; 1 Cyst.

2 Omentums - Fat Necrosis.

87 Omentums & Stomachs - 51 Peritonitis; 33 C.Bovis; 3 Abscesses.

184 Mesenteries & Intestines - 117 Peritonitis; 33 C.Bovis; 22 Pimply Gut; 8 Jöhnes Disease; 3 Abscesses; 1 Enteritis.

16 Suets - 2 Abscesses; 2 Oedema; 12 Fat Necrosis.

COWS.

Total Killed	525
Total Inspected	525

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Carcases and all offal	9	Heads and Tongues	15
Lungs	29	Livers	2
Mesenteries & Intestines	20		

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

17 Carcases and all offal - 2 Acute Fever; 7 Emaciation; 1 Jöhnes Disease; 1 Jaundice; 2 Bruising; 4 General Dropsy.

3 Forequarters - 2 Bruising; 1 Abscess.

4 Part Forequarters - Bruising.

6 Hindquarters - Bruising.

1 Part Hindquarter - Bruising.

4 Heads and Tongues - 2 Actinomycosis; 2 C. Bovis.

223 Lungs - 88 Pleurisy; 15 Pneumonia; 42 Hydatid Cysts; 6 Parasitic; 61 Congestion; 8 Emphysema; 1 Abscess; 2 Melanosis.

321 Livers - 126 Distomatosis; 55 Cirrhosis; 80 Angiomata; 4 Parasitic; 14 Hydatid Cysts; 10 Degeneration; 1 Fatty Infiltration; 12 Abscesses; 19 Peritonitis.

100 Part Livers - 67 Cirrhosis; 33 Distomatosis.

21 Hearts - 2 C. Bovis; 1 Abscess; 18 Pericarditis.

44 Spleens - 42 Peritonitis; 1 Haemorrhagic; 1 Cyst.

21 Skirts - 19 Pleurisy/Peritonitis; 2 Oedema.

96 Udders - 13 Garget; 12 Mammitis; 71 Induration.

COWS (CONTINUED):
DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

66 Mesenteries & Intestines	-	47 Peritonitis; 4 C. Bovis; 12 Pimply Gut; 2 Jöhnes Disease; 1 Abscess.
7 Suets	-	5 Fat Necrosis; 1 Abscess; 1 Bruising.
1 Omentum	-	Fat Necrosis.
45 Omentums & Stomachs	-	41 Peritonitis; 4 C. Bovis.
14 Kidneys	-	2 Degeneration; 1 Abscess; 3 Hydro-Nephritis; 8 Nephritis.

SHEEP.

Total Killed	32,154
Total Inspected	32,154

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

96 Carcases and all organs	-	28 Emaciation; 12 Moribund; 5 Severe Bruising; 7 Acute Fever; 4 Pyaemia; 1 Carcinomata; 28 Dropsy; 6 Septic Pneumonia; 3 Septic Metritis; 1 Septicaemia; 1 Jaundice.
10 Breast/Shoulder	-	6 Pleurisy; 4 Bruising.
15 Legs	-	1 Arthritis; 5 Bruising; 5 Fibrosis; 4 Abscesses.
1 Head & Tongue	-	Abscess.
2 Loins	-	Bruising.
10,747 Lungs	-	5431 Strongyli; 14 Abscesses; 300 Pleurisy; 926 Hydatid Cysts; 5 Melanosis; 951 Pneumonia; 2982 Congestion; 9 Abscesses; 129 Parasitic.
7864 Livers	-	2963 Parasitic; 3354 Distomatosis; 43 Cirrhpsis; 319 Degeneration; 1 Melanosis; 93 Peritonitis; 1019 Hydatid Cysts; 6 Fatty Infiltration; 31 Hepatitis; 36 Abscesses.
64 Kidneys	-	53 Nephritis; 3 Bruising; 3 Cystic; 5 Abscesses.
14 Mesenteries & Intestines	-	12 Peritonitis; 1 Enteritis; 1 Hydatid Cyst.
86 Kidney Capsules	-	83 Fat Necrosis; 2 Bruising; 1 Abscess.

CALVES.

Total Killed	-	2421
Total Inspected	-	2421

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Carcases and all offal	2

CALVES (CONTINUED).

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

16 Carcases and all organs - 1 Acute Fever; 1 Joint Ill; 4 Emaciation; 3 Septic Pneumonia; 6 Immaturity; 1 Jaundice.

31 Lungs - 14 Cystic; 2 Pleurisy; 14 Pneumonia; 1 Melanosis.

58 Livers - 12 Degenerated; 8 Hepatitis; 37 Necrosis; 1 Melanosis.

68 Kidneys - 60 Billiary Nephritis; 5 Degenerated; 3 Haemorrhagic.

2 Breasts - Oedema.

1 Spleen - Bile stained.

PIGS.

Total Killed 6807
Total Inspected 6807

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Carcase and all organs	1	Heads and Tongues	247
Lungs	9	Livers	6
Spleens	3	Mesenteries & Intestines	284
Omentums & Stomachs	284		

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS:

11 Carcases and all organs - 2 Acute Fever; 3 Emaciation; 4 Pyaemia; 2 Uraemia.

3 Part Forequarters - Bruising.

4 Trotters - 2 Arthritis; 2 Abscesses.

9 Legs - Bruising.

1 Head & Tongue - Abscess.

3766 Lungs - 659 Pneumonia; 18 Parasitic; 161 Pleurisy; 172 Hydatid Cysts; 2756 Congestion.

122 Hearts - Pericarditis.

759 Livers - 1 Fatty Infiltration; 29 Parasitic; 56 Degenerated; 122 Cirrhosis; 260 Necrosis; 57 Peritonitis; 56 Hepatitis; 174 Hydatid Cysts; 4 Abscesses.

43 Spleens - 35 Peritonitis; 8 Haemorrhagic.

367 Kidneys - 2 Degenerated; 260 Nephritis; 35 Cysts; 5 Haemorrhagic; 65 Hydro-Nephritis.

68 Omentums & Stomachs - 54 Peritonitis; 12 Hydatid Cysts; 2 Abscesses.

89 Mesenteries & Intestines - 73 Peritonitis; 14 Enteritis; 2 Hydatid-Cysts.

An examination of the figures of animals inspected and the quantity of diseased meat condemned and rejected will give a sense of appreciation of the importance of the service undertaken in protecting our meat supplies. This gives a very satisfying confidence to the general public that a dinner can be consumed without the nauseating thoughts that diseased flesh is being eaten. I would, however, point out that these results are achieved as a result of considerable sacrifice by the Inspectorate which has been obliged to work considerable overtime during week days, and, with few exceptions, every Sunday throughout 1954.

As Chief Sanitary Inspector I am indeed very proud of the high standard of meat inspection locally. As a result of our meat inspection standards Port Talbot has been granted permission to mark all meat inspected at the Public Abattoir. We are the only authority throughout Wales where such permission has been obtained.

DISEASED AND UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR,1954.

TINNED MEAT.

Luncheon Meat:	21 x 12 ozs tins; 8 x 2 lb tins; 7 x 7 ozs tins; 5 x 5 lb 9 ozs tins; 4 x 4 lb tins; 2 x 6 lb tins.		
Corned Beef:	36 x 6 lb tins; 2 x 5 lb 12 ozs tins; 1 x 8 ozs tin; 4 x 5 lb tins; 28 x 12 ozs tins; 1 x 340 grammes tin; 4 x 3 lb tins; 1 x 2 lb tin; 2 x 7 lb tins.		
Jellied Veal:	16 x 6 lb tins.		
Beef Sausage:	15 lbs.	Pork Sausage:	17 lbs.
Pressed Pork:	1 x 2 lb tin.	Pigs Trotters:	6 cartons - total weight - 3 cwts 12 lbs.
Ox Tongues:	10 x 6 lb tins; 3 x 16 ozs tins.		
Lunch Tongues:	4 x 4 lb tins; 2 x 12 ozs tins.		
Stewed Steak:	23 x 16 ozs tins; 2 x 15½ ozs tins.		
Stewed Steak & Mutton:	3 x 16 ozs tins.		
Cooked Ham:	2 x 15 lb 13 ozs tins; 1 x 14 lb 1 ozs tin; 1 x 2 lb tin; 1 x 21 lb 2 ozs tin; 1 x 16 lb 12½ ozs tin; 2 x 9 lb 15 ozs tin; 2 x 16 lb 8 ozs tins; 1 x 9 lb 14 ozs tin; 2 x 1 lb 14 ozs tins; 1 x 8 lb 12 ozs tin; 1 x 9 lb 10 ozs tin; 2 x 10 lb tin; 1 x 11 lb 6 ozs tin; 1 x 10 lb 6 ozs tin; 1 x 11 lb tin; 1 x 13 lb 2 ozs tin; 1 x 11 lb 10 ozs tin; 3 x 9 lbs 5 ozs tins; 2 x 9 lb 13 ozs tins; 1 x 8 lb 4 ozs tin; 2 x 9 lb 8 ozs tins; 1 x 9 lb 4 ozs tin; 1 x 8 lb 13 ozs tin; 1 x 4 lb tin; 1 x 15 lb tin; 1 x 13 lb 13 ozs tin; 1 x 11 lb 7 ozs tin; 1 x 12 lb 14 ozs tin; 2 x 14 lb 4 ozs tins; 13 x 12 ozs tins; 2 x 14 lb 2 ozs tins; 1 x 16 ozs tin; 1 x 5 lb 15 ozs tin; 1 x 16 lb 14 ozs tin; 1 x 15 lb 4 ozs tin; 1 x 8 lb 8 ozs tin; 1 x 10 lb 9 ozs tin; 1 x 6 lb tin; 1 x 13 lb tin; 1 x 9 lb tin; 1 x 10 lb 14 ozs tin; 1 x 13 lb 7 ozs tin; 1 x 8 lb tin; 1 x 16 lb 7 ozs tin; 1 x 13 lb tin.		
Minced Beef Loaf:	37 x 12 ozs tins; 1 x 1 lb 4 ozs tin; 1 x 15½ ozs tin.		
Pressed Beef:	2 x 6 lb tins.	Brawn:	1 x16 ozs tin.
Roast Pork:	13¼ lbs	Meat:	12 x 12 ozs tins.
Ham & Tongue:	10½ lbs.	Chickens:	2 - total weight - 8 lbs 15ozs.
Brisket Beef:	2 x 4 lb tins.	Pork:	3 x 12 ozs tins; 1 x 29 ozs tin.

TINNED MEAT (CONTINUED):

Meat in Gravy:	2 x 20 ozs tins.	Braised Kidneys:	1 x 12 ozs tin.
Steak in Gravy:	1 x 16 ozs tin.	Bacon:	60½ lbs.

TINNED FRUIT.

Peaches:	29 x 1 lb 13 ozs tins; 16 x 1 lb 14 ozs tins; 15 x 15½ ozs tins; 1 x 1 large tin; 8 x 15 ozs tins; 13 x 16 ozs tins; 2 x 1 lb 4 ozs tins.
Pears:	5 x 1 lb 14 ozs tins; 9 x 1 lb 13 ozs tins; 8 x 16 ozs tins; 28 x 15½ ozs tins.
Strawberries:	1 x 13½ ozs tin; 1 x 12 ozs tin; 6 x 15 ozs tins; 6 x 16 ozs tins; 2 x 15½ ozs tins; 4 x 11 ozs tins; 2 x A.2 size tins.
Cherries:	2 x 15 ozs tins; 5 x 20 ozs tins; 5 x 16 ozs tins; 1 x 1 lb 13 ozs tin.
Loganberries:	2 x 20 ozs tins; 11 x 22 ozs tins.
Tomatoes:	83 x 14 ozs tins; 161 x 35 ozs tins; 8 x 32 ozs tins; 6 tall tins; 13 x 6 ozs tins; 5 x 500 gramme tins; 40 x 8 ozs tins; 1 x 6½ ozs tin; 3 x 14½ ozs tins; 8 x 15 ozs tins; 7 x 20 ozs tins; 4 x 18 ozs tins; 1 x 1020 size tin; 1 x 4 ozs tin; 1 x 39 ozs tin; 2 x 16 ozs tins; 10 x 7 ozs tins; 3 x 3 ozs tins; 6 x 5 ozs tins.
Pineapples:	23 x 16 ozs tins; 4 x 20 ozs tins; 10 x 1 lb 4 ozs tins; 1 x 30 ozs tin; 10 x 12 ozs tins; 1 x 1 lb 14 ozs tins.
Raspberries:	4 x 16 ozs tins; 2 x 15 ozs tins; 2 x 31 ozs tins; 4 x 14 ozs tins;
Apricots:	16 x 29 ozs tins; 18 x 16 ozs tins; 2 x 20 ozs tins; 7 x 30 ozs tins; 18 x 15 ozs tins.
Grapefruit:	2 x 20 ozs tins; 1 x 19 ozs tin; 2 x 15½ ozs tins.
Grapefruit Segments:	1 x 16 ozs tin.
Plums:	20 x 20 ozs tins; 3 x 8 ozs tins; 35 x 15½ ozs tins; 22 x 32 ozs tins; 2 x 19 ozs tins; 21 x 30 ozs tins; 3 x 19½ ozs tins; 1 x 15 ozs tin; 6 x 14 ozs tins.
Blackberries:	11 x 15 ozs tins; 1 x 19½ ozs tin.
Blackberry & Apple:	6 x A.2. size tins.
Blackcurrants:	15 x 15½ ozs tins; 9 x 15 ozs tins; 6 x A.1. size tins; 18 x 35 ozs tins; 2 x 11½ ozs tins.
Billberries:	2 x 21 ozs tins; 1 x 10 ozs tin.
Damsons:	11 x 20 ozs tins; 8 x 16 ozs tins; 1 x 29 ozs tin.
Apples:	14 x 14½ ozs tins; 8 x A.1. size tins; 1 x 2 lb tin.
Apple Puree:	14 x 18 ozs tins; 6 x 27 ozs tins; 1 x 96 ozs tin.
Grapes:	2 x 16 ozs tins.
Figs:	15 x 15 ozs tins; 17½ lbs.

TINNED FRUIT (CONTINUED):

Greengages:	8 x 30 ozs tins; 4 x 29 ozs tins; 3 x 16 ozs tins.
Rhubarb:	1 x 15 ozs tin.
Prunes:	3 x 15 ozs tins; 18 x 27½ ozs tins.
Oranges:	4 x 11 ozs tins; 3 x 15 ozs tins; 4 x 16 ozs tins.
Gooseberries:	3 x 16 ozs tins; 1 x 11½ ozs tin; 3 x 14 ozs tins.
Fruit Salad:	9 x 15½ ozs tins.

TINNED VEGETABLES.

Peas:	5 x 15½ ozs tins; 1 x 15 ozs tin; 15 x 19 ozs tins; 4 x 10 ozs tins; 2 x 20 ozs tins; 15 x A.1. size tins; 1 x A.2 size tin; 2 x 13½ ozs tins; 3 x 5 ozs tins; 3 x 8½ ozs tins; 2 x 8 ozs tins; 7 x 16 ozs tins.
Beans:	47 x 16 ozs tins; 11 x 10½ ozs tins; 9 x 8 ozs tins; 3 x A.1. size tins; 4 x 14½ ozs tins; 1 x 20 ozs tin.
Beetroot:	4 x 19½ ozs tins.
Mixed Vegetables:	1 x 10½ ozs tins.

TINNED FISH.

Pilchards:	2 x 16 ozs tins; 3 x 15 ozs tins; 1 x 8 ozs tin.		
Lobster:	5 x 6½ ozs tins.	Crab:	1 x 12 ozs tin; 1 x 3¾ ozs tin.
Shrimps:	3 x 3½ ozs tins.	Sild:	2 x 3¾ ozs tins.
Sardines:	2 x 3¾ ozs tins.	Brislings:	1 x 3¾ ozs tin.
Fish:	1 x 3½ ozs tin.	Salmon:	1 x 8 ozs tin; 2 x 7¾ ozs tins.
Cod Fillets:	10 stone.	Hake:	21½ lbs.
Kippers:	12 stone.	Haddock:	12 lbs.

TINNED MILK/CREAM.

Evaporated Milk:	3 x 1¾ pt tins; 1 x 60 ozs tins; 1 x 7 ozs tin; 25 x 2 pt tins; 3 x ¾ pt tins; 13 x 1⅞ pt tins; 1 x 1⅝ pt tins; 1 x 15½ ozs tin; 2 x 14 ozs tins; 37 x 16 ozs tins; 1 x 8 ozs tin; 7 large size tins; 2 small size tins; 3 x 12 ozs tins.
Full Cream Milk:	23 x 1¾ pt tins; 1 large tin.
Ostermilk:	4 x 16 ozs tins.
Condensed Milk:	2 x 16 ozs tins; 5 x 1⅞ pt. tins.
Cream:	3 x 60 ozs tins; 2 x 5 ozs tins; 2 x 4 fl. ozs tins; 7 x 6 ozs tins; 2 x 4 ozs tins.

TINNED SOUP.

Vegetable: 3 x 15½ ozs tins; 1 x 8 ozs tin.

Beef & Veg: 3 x 16 ozs tins.

Kidney: 2 x 10½ ozs tins.

Cream of Celery: 18 x 16 ozs tins.

Oxtail: 1 x 15½ ozs tin.

Chicken Noodle: 1 x 10½ ozs tin.

Chicken: 1 x 15ozs tin; 2 x 16 ozs tins; 1 x 15½ ozs tin;
1 x 10 ozs tin.

Steak & Veg: 1 x 15½ ozs tin; 4 x 16 ozs tins.

Tomato: 9 x 16 ozs tins; 4 x 10 ozs tins.

Irish Stew: 20 x 16 ozs tins.

JAM.

Apricot: 3 x 24 ozs jars; 7 lb tin.

Raspberry: 2 x 16 ozs jars.

Plum: 1 x 16 ozs jar.

Raspberry & Gooseberry: 4 x 16 ozs jars.

Marmalade: 7 x 16 ozs jars.

Syrup: 1 x 2 lb tin.

Mincemeat: 3 x 14½ ozs jars.

Apple & Strawberry: 2 x 16 ozs jars.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Chocolate: 20 x 2 ozs bars; 2 x 10 ozs bars.

Cheese: 54 lbs 6 ozs. 3 x 8 ozs boxes; 16 x 4½ ozs boxes.

Marzipan: 1 x 8 ozs pkt.

Pan Yan Pickle: 1 x 5 ozs jar; 1 x 11½ ozs jar.

Pudding Mixture: 9 x 7¾ ozs pkts.

Steamed Pudding: 7 x 8 ozs tins.

Sandwich Spread: 2 x 4 ozs jars.

Spaghetti: 1 x 8 ozs tin;
1 x 16 ozs tin.

Butter: 4 lbs.

Pork & Beans: 1 x 8 ozs tin.

Margarine: 2 x ½ lb pkts.

Robinson's Groats: 3 x 8 ozs tins.

Cornflakes: 3 x 12 ozs tins.

Robinson's Barley: 1 x 8 ozs tin.

Scotch Oats: 10 x 1¾ pkts.
1 x 1½ lb pkts.

Rice Creamola: 23 x 3 ozs pkts.

Rice Crispies: 1 x 5½ ozs pkt.

Custard Powder: 21 x 8 ozs pkts.

Tomato Juice: 3 x 16 ozs bottles.

1 Jam Roll.

Sauce: 3 x 14 ozs bottles.

Bovril: 1 x 2 ozs jar.

Genoa Cake: 9 lbs.

Suet: 8 x 8 ozs boxes.

Sultana Cake: 7½ lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS (CONTINUED):

Apple Puree & Custard:	1 x 4½ ozs tin.
Apple Puree:	4 x 18 ozs tins.
Beans & Sausage:	2 x 8 ozs tins; 11 x 11 ozs tins.
Pork, Beans & Sausage:	1 x 8 ozs tin.
Nescafe:	8 x 8 ozs tins.
Chicken Paste:	2 x 2 ozs jars.
Chicken Spread:	1 x 2 ozs jar.

FOOD SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS.

During the year samples of various foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff. The variety of foods, number of samples and results of analysis were as follows:-

Article Sampled.	No. of Samples taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
Milk	104	104	-
Wine Cocktail	1	1	-
Baking Powder	1	1	-
Chutney	1	1	-
Custard Powder	1	1	-
Cheese Spread	2	2	-
Rice Creamola	1	-	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	3	3	-
Cornflour	1	1	-
Honey	3	3	-
Epsom Salts	1	1	-
Yeastvite Tablets	1	1	-
Prunes	1	1	-
Sultanas	3	3	-
Figs	2	2	-
Blancmange Powder	1	1	-
Fruit Sauce	1	1	-
Enos Fruit Salts	1	1	-
Fish Paste	5	5	-
Ground Cinnamon	1	1	-
Multivite Pellets	1	1	-
Jelly	4	4	-
Herbs	1	1	-
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	1	-
Beer	2	2	-
Coffee & Chicory Essence	1	1	-
Halibut Oil	2	2	-
Sandwich Spread	1	1	-
Glace Cherries	2	2	-
Glycerine & Thymol Pastilles	1	1	-
Saccharin Tablets	1	1	-
Castor Oil	1	1	-
Shredded Beef Suet	1	1	-
Meat Paste	2	2	-
Sauce	1	1	-
Pepper	1	1	-
Lemon & Lime Fruit Drops	1	1	-
Children's Aspirin Tablets	1	1	-
Sweet Pickles	1	1	-

Article sampled.	No. of samples taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.
Mustard	2	2	-
Jam	3	3	-
Mincemeat	3	3	-
Pickled Onions	1	1	-
Junket	1	1	-
Gravy Browning	2	2	-
Herb or Botannic Beer	1	1	-
Evaporated Milk	1	1	-
White Pepper	1	1	-
Creampuff Flour	1	1	-
Tomato Piquante	1	1	-
Cranberries	1	1	-
Sardines	1	1	-
Butter	5	5	-
Margarine	5	5	-
Cough Sweets	1	1	-
Marmalade	1	1	-
Vinegar	1	1	-
Mixed Spice	1	1	-
Mixed Peel	2	2	-
Cod Liver Oil	2	2	-
Salad Cream	1	1	-
Ice Cream	6	6	-
Lard	2	2	-
Dessicated Coconut	1	1	-
Stoned Dates	1	1	-
Picalilli	1	1	-
Parsley & Thyme Stuffing	1	1	-
Boiled Sweets	5	3	2
Aspirin Tablets	1	1	-
Cough & Bronchitis Mixture	1	-	1
Salmon Spread	1	1	-
Fruitdrop Lollies	1	1	-
Currants	1	1	-
Peanut Butter	1	1	-
Sage	1	1	-
Marzipan	1	1	-
Dates	1	1	-
Sage & Onion Stuffing	1	1	-
Gin	1	1	-
Brandy	1	1	-
Whisky	1	1	-
Cookeen Fat	1	1	-
Curry Powder	1	1	-
Grated Parmeson Cheese	1	1	-
Chocolate Ginger	1	1	-
Gelatine	1	1	-
Culinary Flavouring	1	1	-
Bonchial Lozenges	1	1	-
Powdered Tumeric	1	1	-
Demarrara Sugar	1	1	-
Synthetic Cream Powder	1	1	-
Ground Cashew Nuts	1	1	-
	240	236	4

The comparison with the previous years is as follows:-

Year	No. of samples taken	Genuine.	Not Genuine
1945	174	166	8
1946	162	153	9
1947	196	166	10
1948	200	183	17
1949	249	249	-
1950	242	232	10
1951	229	220	9
1952	259	250	9
1953	274	267	7
1954	240	236	4

Number of samples taken per 1,000 of population - Estimated 1954 - 46,000	5.2
Percentage of Milks taken, not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	Nil
Percentage of Foods, other than Milk, not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	2.94
Percentage of all Foods not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	1.66

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

The sample of Rice Creamola was found to be infested with meal-mites. In accordance with procedure generally adopted with this type of adulteration the existing stocks of this article of food were surrendered to the Department and a thorough disinfestation of shelving in the shop was carried out.

An informal sample of Boiled Sweets was purchased and found to contain sulphur dioxide to the extent of not less than 315 parts per million. Following this analyst's report a formal sample was purchased giving the same result and proceedings were instituted against the retailer of the sweets under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The retailer, in turn, issued a summons against the manufacturers of the sweets under the provisions of Section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. A fine of £2. 0. 0d. was imposed by the Magistrates together with costs of £1. 9. 0d.

An informal sample of Cough and Bronchitis Mixture was found to be deficient in potassium bromide to the extent of not less than 44 parts per cent, this opinion being based upon the fact that the sample contained only 2.55 parts per cent (w/w) of potassium bromide whereas according to the printed declaration on the container the sample should contain 4.57 parts per cent (w/w) of potassium bromide.

In this instance the firm of chemists was one of a very long standing and the prescription was one of their own. An error of quantities had been made and after very careful consideration the Port Talbot Council felt that the circumstances could be met in this instance by a warning to the Firm which was accordingly given.

SALE OF MILK CONTAINING EXTRANEOUS WATER.

Arising out of information in our possession that milk containing extraneous water was supplied to some of our local schools and works' canteens, it was decided to undertake a series of samples during early morning delivery of milk. A total of 42 formal samples of milk were taken at the various canteen delivery points at about 5.0 a.m. on several mornings. All samples, however, proved genuine. Whilst we were satisfied that the milk was being interfered with, we were, however, unable to secure the necessary evidence required by the Food and Drugs Act. The Executives of a local dairy were invited to the office to discuss the tightening up of control so as to prevent what was certainly intermittent tampering with the milk supply.

A certain course of action was taken and we feel satisfied that it produced the desired results.

I have to express my gratitude and appreciation of the enthusiasm and zeal of members of my Staff who were good enough to join me at 4.15 a.m. on these and other mornings during the year. Some of this early morning sampling took place during the heavy snow and frost of January, 1954.

THE SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS.

The regulations provide that unless milk contains a minimum of 3% fat and 8.5% milk solids other than milk fat, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that the milk is not genuine. The average percentage composition of the whole of the milk samples in the Borough in 1954 was as follows:-

No. of milk samples taken.	Milk fat - percentage	Non-fatty solids-percentage.
104	3.66%	8.63%

The figures for the ten previous years were as follows:-

Year	No. of milk samples examined	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids percentage.
1944	66	3.68%	8.78%
1945	127	3.60%	8.68%
1946	115	3.47%	8.71%
1947	124	3.30%	8.63%
1948	123	3.50%	8.45%
1949	98	3.56%	8.67%
1950	118	3.63%	8.68%
1951	126	3.49%	8.65%
1952	133	3.55%	8.65%
1953	128	3.62%	8.66%

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925-53.

All samples of Milk analysed were free from preservatives.

The samples of Blancmange Powder, Custard Powder and Cornflour were found to be free from sulphites and that of Sauce was free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids.

The samples of Fish Paste were free from sulphites and boric acid.

The Wine Cocktail was free from sulphites and the samples of Honey, Table Jelly, Throat Lozenges, Figs, Prunes and Sultanas were declared free from sulphites.

The Condensed Milk was free from preservatives and the samples of Butter were found to be free from boric acid.

Of the samples of Margarine taken, one contained 0.02% of boric acid, whilst the rest were free.

The samples of Gravy Browning were free from sulphites and boric acid and those of Pickled Onions, Sweet Pickles, Sauce and Tomato Piquante were free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids. The Tomato Piquante had a copper content (on dried solids) of 7 parts per million (maximum limit 50 p.p.m.)

The Meat Paste was free from sulphites and boric acid and of the samples of Beer submitted two contained 19 p.p.m. and nil p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide respectively. The samples were free from lead and contained not more than traces of copper and arsenic.

The samples of Canned Fish and Canned Cranberries did not contain more than traces of tin.

The Coffee & Chicory Essence was genuine free from sulphites, benzoic and salicylic acids and those of Mincemeat and Jam were free from benzoic and salicylic acids. Of the samples of Jam two were free from sulphites and one contained 35 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide (maximum limit 100 parts per million). The samples of Mincemeat were free from sulphites.

Two of the samples of Boiled Sweets contained an excess of 315 parts per million of sulphur dioxide while the other samples were free from sulphites.

The Fruit Pastilles were genuine free from sulphites and the samples of Glace Cherries complied with the Preservatives in Food Regulations with a sulphur dioxide content of 55 and 26 p.p.m. respectively.

All the samples of Ice Cream were free from preservatives and that of Vinegar was free from mineral acid and contained not more than a trace of arsenic.

The samples of Marmalade and Cough Sweets were genuine free from sulphites.

The sample of Curry Powder had a lead content of 2 parts per million (Maximum limit 10 parts per million).

The Gelatine had a sulphur dioxide content of 320 parts per million (Maximum limit 1,000 parts per million).

The samples of Currants and Dates were free from sulphites.

Of the samples of Mixed Peel one was free from sulphites and the other contained 32 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.

THE MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILIZED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-53.

All dairies where milk or milk utensils were stored were regularly inspected during the year.

There were 22 purveyors registered by Council for the sale of ungraded milks within the Borough. The number of licenses granted for the sale of designated milks were:-

Pasteurised:	(a)	Dealers Licences	23
	(b)	Supplementary Licences	3
Sterilized:	(a)	Dealers Licences	14
	(b)	Supplementary Licences	1
Tuberculin Tested:	(a)	Dealers Licences	22
	(b)	Supplementary Licences	2

The sampling and examination of our milk supply undertaken during the year was as follows:-

Nature of Examination.	Number Submitted	Number Satisfactory	Number not Satisfactory
Adulteration	104	104	Nil
Bacterial Purity	69	62	7
Presence of Tuberculosis	29	29	Nil

SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF MILK:

Practically the whole of the milk retailed in the Borough today is Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, Sterilized and Channel Island. The old practice of the milkman supplying milk from the open can has disappeared. Apart from bulk supplies to canteens, cafes, etc., milk is now sold in bottles. Hygiene, coupled with commercial necessity, has abolished the old can and measure and the glass bottle has become firmly established in the trade. Whilst we have striven for years to secure what was considered a most desirable method of retailing milk we did not, however, forsee some of the problems that would arise. These problems are - the dirty bottle, extraneous matter in bottles and the accumulation of empty bottles in back gardens and open spaces. The dairying trade is very concerned and would like to find a solution to these problems. As a result of discussions with dairy executives I am appreciative of the practical difficulties involved. In spite of the concern and efforts to solve these problems we continue to receive complaints for which no amount of prosecution can provide a remedy. The problem of the dirty bottle is indeed difficult. Used bottles in bad condition are returned in great numbers to our dairies. They contain soil, paraffin, cement, paint, home-perm solutions and other adhesive and transparent substances. Watchers are employed at dairy establishments to pick out grossly contaminated bottles which are separated and destroyed. Watchers are also employed to check on the cleanliness of bottles as they are carried along the belts from the washing machines and before they are filled with milk. It is, however, the one bottle contaminated with some substance which does not show as the bottle comes from the washing machine to the filler which is most disquieting. In spite of every care and inspection it may be missed and delivered. The housewife may not notice the contamination until the bottle is turned upside-down when the milk is poured into a jug.

To discover glass in milk is most upsetting to the customer. Mothers are genuinely afraid of what may happen to their children if they swallow it. In a sense, the larger the piece of glass, the less dangerous it is. The small peice is more likely to be missed and swallowed. The pieces are sometimes so small as to pass up a straw into the child's mouth. It is said that quantities of powdered or small broken glass can be taken in food without ill-effect. This may be so, but I think it is right that a serious view should be taken by public health authorities of all cases of glass in milk. The thing may not be strictly harmful but it may be unfit to drink and the public must be safeguarded.

Two complaints of glass in milk bottles were received by the Department during the year. The matter was immediately taken up with the dairies concerned and the seriousness stressed. It is, however, very difficult to take legal proceedings in such cases for glass in bottles may occur in several ways. It may arise from weaknesses in the necks of bottles resulting in pieces being knocked or forced off when the capping device comes down during filling. The theory that glass may be in the bottle as it comes from the washer is largely discounted as the bottles are up-turned on the way through. I have known of instances where partly fractured pieces of glass fall into milk during handling and delivery. This can happen when the neck of a full capped bottle gets a knock from the bottom of another on the rounds.

During the year we took up with two principal dairying firms in the area the question of the accumulation of empty milk bottles on waste land, open spaces, roadside and back lane cul-de-sacs and even in the back gardens of dwelling houses. Some of the effective remedies I had in mind were soon proved useless when the practical implications were explained by the dairying managements. However, I am satisfied that the efforts of these dairying firms is bringing about considerable improvement in the area. The menace of the discarded milk bottle became so serious on the premises of the Steel Company of Wales that action was taken by the Management to clear the site, and at present only milk in cartons is allowed into the works area. The used cartons are placed in litter bins and later collected.

These disturbing features of what was considered a hygienic method of milk distribution, and looked upon as an improvement on the old can and measure practice, are giving rise to much concern both to the dairying trade and Public Health authorities. Having regard to the problems arising out of the use of bottles for the delivery of milk and the exclusive use of milk cartons on the premises of the Steel Company of Wales, may not the solution be in the single use - non returnable carton? The carton has many public health advantages. These and the important economic factors (the entire stock of a dairy may need replacing five or six times a year) are now being widely discussed in a renewal of interest. From an experience of the problem of milk delivery over a period of many years, I am beginning to wonder whether delivery of milk by glass bottles is already on the way out.

WATER SUPPLY.

Two hundred and sixty samples of water were taken by your Sanitary Officers for bacteriological examination. These were obtained from various points along the course of your several water supplies so that a proper check could be maintained on the general purity of our drinking water.

Of the 268 samples taken; 16 failed to reach the bacteriological standard required. These were taken from the following points:-

1. Tap, 264 Margam Road - Chlorinated - Local authority supply.

2. Spring, Tycanol, Baglan (2) - Unchlorinated - Private supply.

3. Cwmguineau - Unchlorinated - Local authority supply.

4. Cwmwernderi - Unchlorinated - Local authority supply.

5. Blaencyneiron Stream - Unchlorinated - Local authority supply.

6. Tap, Depot Road, Cwmavon - Chlorinated - Local authority supply.

7. Tap, Dalton Road, Aberavon (2) - Chlorinated - Local authority supply.

8. Standpipe, Chlorination House, Margam - Chlorinated - Private supply.

9. Ffrwdwyllt River (2) - Unchlorinated.

10. Cwrt-y-Defaid (2) - Unchlorinated - Private supply.

11. Penybryn - Unchlorinated - Private supply.

12. Cwrt-Bychan - Unchlorinated - Private supply.

SAMPLING OF WATER SUPPLYING THE DOCKS AREA

Some few years ago the Swansea Port Health Authority was reporting unsatisfactory sampling results from water supplied to the Port Talbot Docks area. Even at this time samples taken from the various supplies by your officers - with one or two exceptions - were proved to be satisfactory. There was, as a result, much undesirable publicity and interference with shipping using the Port. By arrangement with officials of the British Transport Commission we agreed on sampling points that would provide a check on all supplies reaching the dock area. We also arranged to sample, on agreed dates, the Cwmbrombil supply which appeared to be the major offending water supply.

The number of samples taken throughout the year and the results are as follows:-

Sampling Sites	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chlorination House, Cwmbrombil supply	34	1
Dock Street, Cwmbrombil supply	13	-
Wharf Row	12	-
Talbot Wharf	13	-
Docks Power House	14	-
Burrows Junction Signal Box	13	-
Duffryn Road Signal Box	13	-
Port Talbot Steelworks	13	-
Totals:	125	1

The number of samples taken by officers of the British Transport Commission are as follows:-

Sampling Sites	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Rising main, Pier Head - Cwmbrombil supply	11	Nil

It will be observed from the above that out of the 125 samples taken by your officers and the 11 taken by officers of the British Transport Commission, only one sample from the Chlorination House on the Cwmbrombil Supply proved to be unsatisfactory. Unfortunately, this sample was taken when the Wallace Tierman Chlorination Plant was being replaced by a Paterson Chlorinator. This was during the month of June and all samples taken - a total of 16 - from June to December proved satisfactory.

A feature that could have disastrous results, however, was discovered during some of my many visits to the Docks area. Occasionally ships were seen discharging the contents of their toilets on to the dock side, contrary to instructions. When water was supplied to ships' tanks the hoses used to connect water main to the ships' tanks were often drawn along the dock side and contaminated by the liquid filth from ships. When obviously contaminated the hoses were washed by being thrown over the dock side into the water. Either effective means of prohibiting discharge of toilets on to the dock side or some means of safeguarding the connecting hoses from contamination should be introduced. The attention of the officers of the Swansea Port Health Authority was drawn to this undesirable practice.

FOOD HYGIENE, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 AND BYELAWS MADE THEREUNDER FOR OBSERVING CLEANLINESS, ETC., IN STORAGE, HANDLING, WRAPPING & DELIVERY OF FOOD.

During the post war years much attention has been directed to food hygiene. Your sanitary officers have devoted much of their time during these years to the improvement of the standard of personal hygiene and the protective measures involved in the storage, preparation and sale of various foods. The earlier years were spent in making a survey of all food premises, meeting representatives of the various sections of the food trade and discussing with them the application and implication of our Clean Food Byelaws. There were also numerous meetings of builders and representatives of various firms on their premises to discuss and agree upon necessary improvements. Whilst one is very pleased to have prevailed upon the trade to spend hundreds and thousands of pounds on the improvement of premises, all this can be of no avail if there is a disregard of personal hygiene. The need of personal hygiene is stressed upon both managements of large establishments and the small retailers alike and from time to time checks are carried out to establish whether or not due regard is paid to recommended methods and practices.

The average observant citizen must have noticed a considerable improvement in our local food premises during the last few years. We as your sanitary officers have had a somewhat impatient feeling that results were not being manifested rapidly enough to give a real appreciation of the progress achieved. We are justifiably proud, however, that results are now becoming abundantly obvious.

We are also very pleased that so much has been achieved by the co-operation of the trade and that there has not been a single prosecution. I find, however, particularly in the green-grocery section, that some traders are not as co-operative as they promised to be. There was an agreement with this section of the trade when we met to discuss our Clean Food Byelaws, that no fruit, vegetables, etc., would be exposed for sale outside the premises. One does not require a strong sense of imagination to appreciate the filth contained in road dust etc. Fruit etc., exposed to such contamination is often eaten by children and even adults without being washed. In few cases, however, we find an occasional tradesman unco-operative in deviating from an agreed arrangement not to expose fruit and vegetables outside his premises. On occasions too, a waitress has been seen to put fingers inside cups or place knives or spoons on tables by fingering the parts which come in contact with food. We have not found any evidence of visible dirty cups, glasses or dishes, neither have we found any cases of glass or cups contaminated by lipstick.

We feel that much education has yet to penetrate into our homes and amongst the food consuming public where neglect and indifference to food hygiene still prevail. We also feel that we could be given much assistance by the food consuming public. If people refrained from making their purchases at premises which fall below the desired standard or where flagrant abuses of food hygiene principles are observed, or complained when such abuses are noticed, traders would soon be obliged to conform to required standards.

Another feature that stands out in the smaller premises, and in some cases, even in the larger business premises, is that of inadequate storage facilities. If proper storage is neglected and if spoilage, decomposition or contamination are allowed to occur, the most careful precautions taken during the preparation and previous handling of foodstuffs may be undone. For this reason we stress that adequate attention must be given to the conditions under which food is being stored.

Our Clean Food Byelaws do not specifically state that all food shops should have glass plated fronts. Nevertheless, one of the byelaws require that food traders shall "take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect the food from dust, dirt, mud, filth, dirty water, animals, rodents, flies, insects, and other sources of contamination including contamination by other persons, and in particular shall cause the food to be so placed as to prevent risk of contamination from such sources".

I am of opinion that no food trader could comply with this Byelaw unless he has a closed shop front to protect the food exposed for sale from the contaminating effect of road dust which may be blown thereon. We have accordingly prevailed on several old established traders who have carried on business from open shops to provide an enclosed plate glass frontage.

There is only one food premises in the Borough having an open shop front. This is a Fruiterer's Shop in Church Street, Aberavon. This premises will be demolished when the proposed Town Centre Improvement Scheme is carried through. Under such circumstances we have not pressed for enclosing the shop front.

A special progress report on Public Houses was presented to Council during the year. On Council instruction this Report was also circulated to the Borough Magistrates and the Police. We are very appreciative of the co-operation we have received from the Superintendent of Police and his Officers in respect of the improvements in Public Houses. Much good work has already been carried out but there are still some premises where the whole of our requirements have not yet been completed.

Practically the whole of our food premises are now equipped with ample supplies of hot and cold water in the room where food is sold or prepared, or not further away than the adjoining room. Hot and cold water and washing facilities in a scullery or kitchen has not been deemed satisfactory. There is certainly no excuse for food handlers today having dirty hands or being otherwise unclean. Stalls on the beach have also been required to provide ample supplies of hot and cold water and washing facilities. Being outside the area of electricity and gas services, calor gas cylinders have been introduced to connect up with geysers for the supply of hot water.

Efforts are being made, and in many cases already achieved, to have our food vehicles such as bakery and grocery delivery vans fitted with hot water and washing facilities. One has to commend Messrs. The Taibach and Port Talbot Co-operative Society for their venture in this direction.

The scheme prepared by Council for the provision of hot and cold water and washing facilities in the Market stalls has not yet been carried out. I am sure it will be appreciated how embarrassing it can be for your officers to administer our Clean Food Byelaws in respect of the various food premises when our attention is drawn by private traders - called upon to provide certain facilities such as the provision of hot water, etc., - that such facilities are not provided in food premises under the control and administration of the local authority. I would indeed be very happy to be able to report in my next Annual Report that this work has been satisfactorily completed.

One is very pleased and appreciative of the enterprise of the Steel Company of Wales with their works' canteen facilities. The control and standards of hygiene enforced amongst the food staff is indeed very creditable. It is realised that any deviation from a strict code of hygienic conduct could have very disturbing results where so much food is handled and consumed. The magnitude of the canteen facilities can be appreciated when it is realised that over three thousand cooked meals and fifteen thousand snack meals are provided each day. This, of course, does not include the thousands of cups of tea and other drinks provided. Excellent co-operation exists between the executives of the catering establishments of the Steel Company and your sanitary officers.

One is only too conscious that the Government's food hygiene policy is geared to the efficiency, or otherwise, of your Sanitary Officers. Only an officer specially qualified and possessed of the desirable personal qualities can bring out the best in this sphere of activities. Any let-up in a catering establishment or works canteen could have disastrous and crippling results should the neglect of food hygiene principles result in an outbreak of food poisoning. The time and energy spent in this sphere of activities is then certainly well worthwhile.

It gave the Chairman of your Public Health Committee and myself, when attending a National Conference, much pleasure to see in a Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food display of photographs, several Port Talbot premises held out as examples of what was being done in parts of the country to secure the necessary standards of food hygiene. When the progress in food hygiene made by the Welsh Authorities of Abertillery and Port Talbot were recently referred to in a National Weekly Publication these Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food photographs were again reproduced.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

One cannot but be impressed with the tremendous industrial and civic development that has taken place locally during recent years. Such development has produced substantial prosperity to this Borough but has also produced many problems. At the outset one would say that every effort is being made to solve the problems in a manner that will further the prosperity we now enjoy. Two problems that stand out, however, are traffic congestion and atmospheric pollution. Whilst Council is concerned with both problems, the one that directly concerns my Department is that of the emission of smoke, dust and grit.

One has experienced over a period of years the citizen pointing to the pollution from industrial installations, whereas, when discussing the problem with industrial executives, attention is drawn to the domestic chimney. The views of some industrialists, business people and many of our citizens who are concerned in business success and prosperity may be summed up in the phrase, "where there is muck there is money", which the Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskill, when Minister of Fuel and Power, stated had been exploded. It is full time that all concerned realised that prosperity can be achieved without extensive atmospheric pollution. There is room for all to play a part - the citizen with his domestic fire, the industrialist with his works' installations and the local authority implementing its functions in the protection of public health.

One realises that the industrialist is vitally interested in production achievements and that the demands made by the local authority in the discharge of its functions of protecting public welfare may add to capital costs and, perhaps, restrict somewhat the all-out effort towards production records. Yet, on the other hand, industrial advantage has accrued over the years by the recovery of valuable by-product which previously polluted the atmosphere. Further experiments in this direction may still prove worthwhile to both the industrialist and to the citizen breathing a contaminated atmosphere. Council's approaches, however, to the Steel Company of Wales have always been sympathetically received. We may at times feel a little impatient with the results obtained, but we are not without having regard to the tremendous industrial installations that exist, the consequent problems and breakdowns that inevitably arise, and the national and international demand for steel.

The Steel Company has set up an Operational Research Department (whose Manager is Mr. H. G. Jones, M.A., M.Sc.,B.Sc.(Eng)) to deal with all the problems of atmospheric pollution as they arise. One realizes that before schemes involving the expenditure of thousands of pounds can be introduced, facts must be produced to justify such a course of action and success must be assured. This Department is, therefore, undertaking much research work in this direction and its co-operation with your Sanitary Department in these activities is all that one would desire.

From time to time we have endeavoured to prevail upon the Steel Company to experiment with the possibility of providing a scheme to eliminate much of the dust that is carried up into the atmosphere with clouds of steam following the quenching of hot coke. We are pleased to receive assurances from the Management that following certain tests, a plant will be constructed in an endeavour to abate this nuisance. An extract from a letter from the Secretary & Comptroller reads as follows:-

"Coke Oven Plant. The Management has carried out certain tests with a Pilot Plant and has now authorised - at a cost of £30,000 - the building of a Grit Extraction Plant on one Coke Quenching Tower which, we hope, will cause a considerable abatement of the emission of grit at that point. This, as you are no doubt aware, is the first plant of its kind in the world but we are hopeful that it will result in an improvement of conditions".

Added industrial developments by the construction of a Sintering Plant tends to increase possibilities of atmospheric pollution. Here again we are assured of every effort being made to prevent or reduce dust pollution.

Sintering is a method whereby fine ore particles are roasted with carbon matter into form lumps which can be used in the blast furnaces. The carbon matter is a fine coke dust obtained from the screening plant together with flue dust from the blast furnaces and mill scale. This mixture is moistened and eventually passes on to a moving steel pallet belt. As this belt moves it passes under an ignition hood fired by blast furnace or coke oven gas which causes the combustion of the materials on the belt. The effect of this combustion on the raw materials will be to cause the reduction of the ore into a porous lumpy solid known as sinter. At the end of the pallet belt, sinter is deposited at cooling strand to reduce it to a temperature permissible on rubber belts, after which it is carried by belt to higher level hoppers ready for use in the furnaces. Throughout the processes, from the deposit of the fine ore to the cooling of the hot sinter, the amount of dust pollution of the atmosphere can be considerable.

As a result of the receipt of complaints of excessive dust from the residents of West End area I made an extensive examination of this Sintering Plant. Following my report to Council the Steel Company of Wales was requested to be good enough to give attention to the following matters towards a reduction of dust emission.

(1) Enclosing the stockyard: This was an area where fine ore was deposited in large heaps. During high winds a considerable quantity of this dust was blown into the atmosphere. Apart from its polluting effect there must have been a considerable loss of valuable ore. The only solution to the problem here was to enclose the whole of the stockyard. This would be costly but so was the loss of considerable ore dust.

(2) Wet washing and dust extracting at sinter strand discharge and at cooler:

The amount of dust emitted at these points was excessive. Further, from time to time, the dust extracting process broke down. One could appreciate the abrasive effect of the ore grit on the metal vanes of the dust extractors and the wearing away of this metal made the extracting process less efficient and eventually made it useless. Provision, however, should be made for more frequent renewals or some preliminary screening of dust with equipment of a harder metal to withstand the abrasive effect of the ore grit. I was of opinion that experiments to improve wet washing at the discharge and cooling points would contribute towards a reduction in the dust emitted.

(3) Higher temperature to improve the roasting of surface of the product on the pallet belt:

The moist mixture of coke breeze, ore, flue dust and iron oxide scale, etc., having been spread on the pallet belt or iron grate was ignited with a hot gas flame, and as it travelled along on this grate or belt, air was drawn through, so that it was kept hot. The heat caused the mass to clinker without, however, affecting the important materials in it. The surface of the mass on this belt appeared to be unaffected by the heat and whilst I had seen a partially red hot surface on a sintering belt of this kind, I was somewhat surprised to find this to be absent at our Port Talbot works. The surface of the mixture on the belt being unaffected by the intense heat was not clinkering but remained as a fine dust which could be readily separated from the bulk of the material. It, therefore, passed along simply as a dry mass to increase the amount of dust eventually extracted or liberated into the atmosphere. I felt that some process should be evolved to produce more heat on the surface of the mass so as to encourage clinkering.

The gas used for ignition at Port Talbot was blast furnace gas. Whether this gas could be substituted by coke oven gas or whether a method or process of intensifying the heat on the surface of the mass could be introduced was, of course, a matter for the Steel Company. In my opinion, the present arrangement was, however, wasteful of time and material and increased the amount of dust to be dealt with by the extraction process and emitted into the atmosphere.

I have to acknowledge the courtesy and co-operation of the Departmental Manager - Mr. Tuffnail, who responded readily to all my enquiries.

I was assured by Mr. Tuffnail that his Company were experimenting on the matters referred to in order to reduce as much as possible the dust emitted from the sinter plant.

These assurances have since been confirmed by a letter addressed to the Town Clerk by the Secretary and Comptroller - Mr. D. J. Young. It deals with the points I have already referred to and reads as follows:-

"Sinter Plant:

(1) Authority has been given to the enclosing of the Sinter Plant Stockyard and a sheeting scheme in this connection is in course of construction. The scheme itself gives rise to a further problem regarding interior lighting which may slow down its completion but, in due course, we feel satisfied that a satisfactory solution of this problem will be completed.

(2) A scheme for wet washing and dust extraction at the Sinter Strand discharge and at the Cooler are being considered by the German designers and dust extraction equipment for the No: 1 Strand has been installed. The operation of this plant is giving rise to certain difficulties which will, no doubt, be overcome in due course when we hope to install similar equipment on the No: 2 Strand.

(3) A higher temperature of ignition is being achieved by the use of coke oven gas".

It is obvious from the forégoing that the Steel Company is deeply concerned with any discomfort that may be caused from atmospheric pollution arising from their installations and are giving practical proof of their efforts towards a solution

DUST POLLUTION SERVICES UNDERTAKEN BY THE STEEL COMPANY OF WALES.

Up to and including the year 1954 our atmospheric pollution records were obtained from standard deposit gauges at two stations. These two stations proved adequate for those parts of the Borough where substantial pollution appeared to occur. Various industrial installations and processes give rise to much dust. To ascertain the relative contribution of each process or to pin point other sources of pollution would, however, require a larger number of deposit gauges. In an attempt to obtain more information on the sources of grit and dust pollution the Steel Company's Operational Research Department in collaboration with your Sanitary Department carried out in 1953 what was known as a petri-dish survey utilising thirty-two stations or sites situated within a quarter, half, three-quarter and one mile radius of the Steel Company's Coke Ovens. Sixteen of these stations were on the Company's premises and sixteen situated in the residential areas of Taibach and Port Talbot. A petri-dish survey is a somewhat rough method of ascertaining atmospheric pollution. So many variable factors are involved that too much reliance cannot be placed upon the results obtained. One is, however, provided with some guide and indication of the extent, source and direction of atmospheric pollution.

Details of this survey were included in my 1953 Annual Report. The mean rate of dust deposited at radius quarter mile (8 sites) from Margam Coke Ovens was about 80 tons per square mile per month, and that at radius of half mile or more (8 sites) about 40 tons per square mile per month.

During 1954, however, a second survey was undertaken using 64 sampling points or sites. On this occasion a sub-standard gauge, designed by the Operational Research Department, was used. This gauge followed somewhat the pattern of the standard gauge used by Council at our both stations. The assistance of your Sanitary Department was given to the arranging and establishing of the stations in the residential area. Some 600 samples obtained from these sites were analysed for insoluble matter by the Company's Laboratory Staff. A considerable amount of technical and scientific work was put into this survey by members of the Operational Research Department. The Steel Company was good enough to circulate to Council a very interesting and informative report of the survey. The report dealt with factors giving rise to the varying results. Whatever the process, installation or source of the dust pollution, it is obvious from the records obtained from the various sampling points or stations and shown over-leaf that much has yet to be done before we can achieve a reasonably clean atmosphere in these parts of Port Talbot.

DUST POLLUTION SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF THE STEEL COMPANY OF WALES USING SUB-STANDARD GAUGES.

Location.	Mean Deposit Tons/sq.mile/ month.	Location.	Mean Deposit Tons/sq. mile/ month.
Byass Works	22	B.R. Near Lime Plant	78
Fussells Toy Stores	61	2 Rhannalt Street	62
R.F.C. Ground	22	2 Lansbury Avenue	38
Lyncroft, Penycae Road	33	McAlpine Concrete Mixer	110
46 Gwarycaeau	47	Near Coke Stock	66
Brick Pillar near Bar Mill	33	Primary Crusher	71
Roof, Margam New Work Office	55	B.R.Water Tower	61
Bakery, Bailey Street	39	Builders Yard	37
16 George Street	32	29 Bracken Road	40
Chapel of Ease Cemetery	65	Brombil Farm	22
Steelworks Wharf	23	Brombil Valley	27
North End Llewellyn's Quay	22	North Canteen	87
South of Pig Casting Plant	40	Near Diesil Service Station	45
118 Talbot Road	47	8 Toronto Avenue	43
37 Park Street	67	Shopping Centre	33
100 yds, north of Balaclava Road	32	School Caretaker's House	26
Talbot Wharf	22	Brombil Lane	25
Llewellyn's Quay	28	Fuel Tanks	46
Hot Metal Weighbridge	330	Slab Mill	51
Andrew Scott (Vivian Works)	200	Hostel	29
12 Constant Road	59	258 Margam Road	34
Coal Sidings Near Wharf	22	Club House	33
Wagon Works near Wharf	40	Skull Breaker	77
Phoenix Works, N.C.B.	53	Slab Yard	78
Blast Furnace Office	770	Main Office	46
Washery Office	690	Club Fields	21
26 Margam Road	150	Cooling Tower	36
13 Wilden Avenue	42	Brick Stores	15
Near Dock Street	22	Hot Mill	47
Sinter Plant	360	Cold Mill	28
Near No: 5 Bridge	600	Car Park, H.S.F.	18
Quenching Tower	870	Road to South Weighbridge	22

PRODUCTION OF CARBIDE - MESSRS. THE BRITISH INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS,LTD.

Where our Borough joins the Penybont area, in the direction of Porthcawl, we have a calcium carbide producing works. This works is the cause of serious atmospheric pollution. Dense quantities of smoke and dust have been distributed over a wide area.

Calcium carbide is formed by fusing together a mixture of carbon and calcium oxide at temperatures exceeding 2000°C, which can only be attained in the electric furnace according to the following illustrative equation:-

$$\underset{\text{Calcium oxide}}{CaO} + \underset{\text{Carbon}}{3C} + \underset{\text{heat}}{\text{calories}} = \underset{\text{Calcium carbide}}{CaC_2} + \underset{\text{Carbon monoxide}}{CO}$$

The calcium oxide assumes the form of lime, which is obtained by burning a local limestone in the kiln while the carbon assumes the form of coke. The lime and coke are fed in the theoretical proportions necessary to produce carbide in an electric furnace, which consists of a refractory lined bowl containing three barbon electrodes immersed in the lime/coke charge. Electrical current of high magnitude is passed between the electrodes through the charge, which becomes heated to the temperature necessary to form carbide. The molten carbide is periodically removed from the furnace through a taphole, while the carbon monoxide gas formed during the chemical reaction seeps us through the upper-layers of solid charge burning to form carbon dioxide gas on the surface. This carbon dioxide gas together with any volatile matter in the coke escapes through a stack into the atmosphere carrying with it particles of lime and coke. As the carbide is removed, more lime/coke mixture is fed to the furnace, and this, in turn, sinks into the current path making the process continuous.

The carbide is allowed to solidify and is broken down into sizes suitable for delivary to the customer.

The three furnaces at these works are of the open type and similar to other furnaces elsewhere in Europe. In Canada, however, there is a closed type of furnace. To introduce the closed type here would entail a complete change of methods of working to which employees would have to be trained. It would also mean the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The works belonged to the Ministry of Supply and was managed by Messrs. The British Industrial Solvents, Ltd. Representations have been made to the **Management** of the works and forwarded to the Ministry of Supply. The following assurances received from the Manager of Messrs. British Industrial Solvents is of interest:-

"I am able to say, however, that the Ministry are now - in conjunction with my Company - actively considering the installation of a closed type of furnace, and the implications are that the existing furnaces will be changed over to this type as and when experience of the new unit is gained".

I understand that control has now been taken over from the Ministry of Supply by Messrs. The British Industrial Solvents, Ltd.

During 1954 meetings took place between representatives of Council and those of the Penybont Rural District Council and the Farmers' Union in respect of the damaging effect of carbide dust on agricultural land and produce. A joint deputation representing these three bodies later waited upon the Management. The matters discussed were - atmospheric pollution and the pollution on farm land and agricultural products, etc., with the effect of carbide dust on animal life. The deputation was assured by the Management that in the firm's view the closed type of furnace was the only answer but was far too costly at the present. They were obtaining technical and engineering advice from Germany and a German firm was coming over very soon with a Pilot Plant to investigate ways and means of reducing or extracting the excess dust, etc., from the open type of furnace. It was agreed that a progress report would be presented to the deputation when further consideration could be given to the matter.

MIRROR LAUNDRY AND PHOENIX PATENT FUEL WORKS:

Arising out of complaints received during the year observations were kept upon smoke and dust emission from both the above works. I felt, however, that if the required supervision and the regard for proper methods of working the installations was maintained at both places, no nuisance should arise. Following representations made to the respective managements no further nuisance was observed.

MESSRS. JOHNSON BROS., (STEEL ERECTORS), LTD., CORNWALL STREET, ABERAVON.

The installation of the oxy-catalyst unit in the exhaust tubes of the ovens of these works proved satisfactory throughout the year. From checks made at irregular periods there was no appreciative odour in the atmosphere of the surrounding area, neither were there any complaints received from the residents.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION FROM DOMESTIC CHIMNEYS.

Whilst we have given much of our time and attention to the atmospheric pollution that arises from industry - industry locally being the major offender - let it not be overlooked that the domestic chimney makes its contribution and that the average citizen has his part to play towards a purer atmosphere.

In the domestic field there has been some progress in the installation of approved smokeless solid fuel appliances to replace old, inefficient fireplaces, and a large number of these attractive appliances are now installed annually by householders. Unfortunately, in many cases, they are not used at full efficiency because bituminous coal is often burnt in them and at night fires are banked up with slack.

The object of producing and officially approving the appliances is to secure economy and efficiency in the use of fuel and thereby to reduce smoke pollution. I am afraid that the result so far of popularising the appliances has tended to increase domestic smoke and not to reduce it.

The main advantage accruing in the great demand for the new solid fuel all-night grates is that a large number of houses have been equipped, wholly or partly, for smokeless operation if and when the occupiers, voluntarily or compulsory adopt smokeless firing. Experience shows that the widespread use of smokeless solid fuels in dwelling houses will not readily be adopted voluntarily for the following reasons:-

1. The popularity of the open coal fire.
2. The expense of replacing old firegrates by smokeless fuel appliances.
3. The sufficiency of available supplies of smokeless solid fuels.
4. The relatively high cost of smokeless solid fuels compared with the price of bituminous coal.
5. The variation in quality of smokeless fuels, particularly coke.

The smoke pollution arising from the domestic chimney locally may be substantially less than that from industry. The discharge of soot and tarry matter from the domestic coal fire at low level can, however, be relatively equally damaging and dangerous. Fortunately, there is an increasing use of gas and electricity for heating purposes and having regard to the high cost of coal there are very few domestic fires during the summer months.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, ETC RECORDS.

It was agreed during the year to establish yet another atmospheric recording station. We were unable to obtain all the required equipment in time to commence recording in 1954. This station is situated on the roof of the new Out-Patients Department of the Aberavon Hospital. The two other stations are situated respectively, on the roof of the Regent Cinema, Taibach and on the roof of Messrs. Richards, Ltd., rear of Grand Hotel, Port Talbot. The three stations are registered and described as - Aberavon, Taibach and Town Centre.

In providing the following records of atmospheric pollution, sunshine and rainfall for 1954 I have also shown, for comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year - 1953.

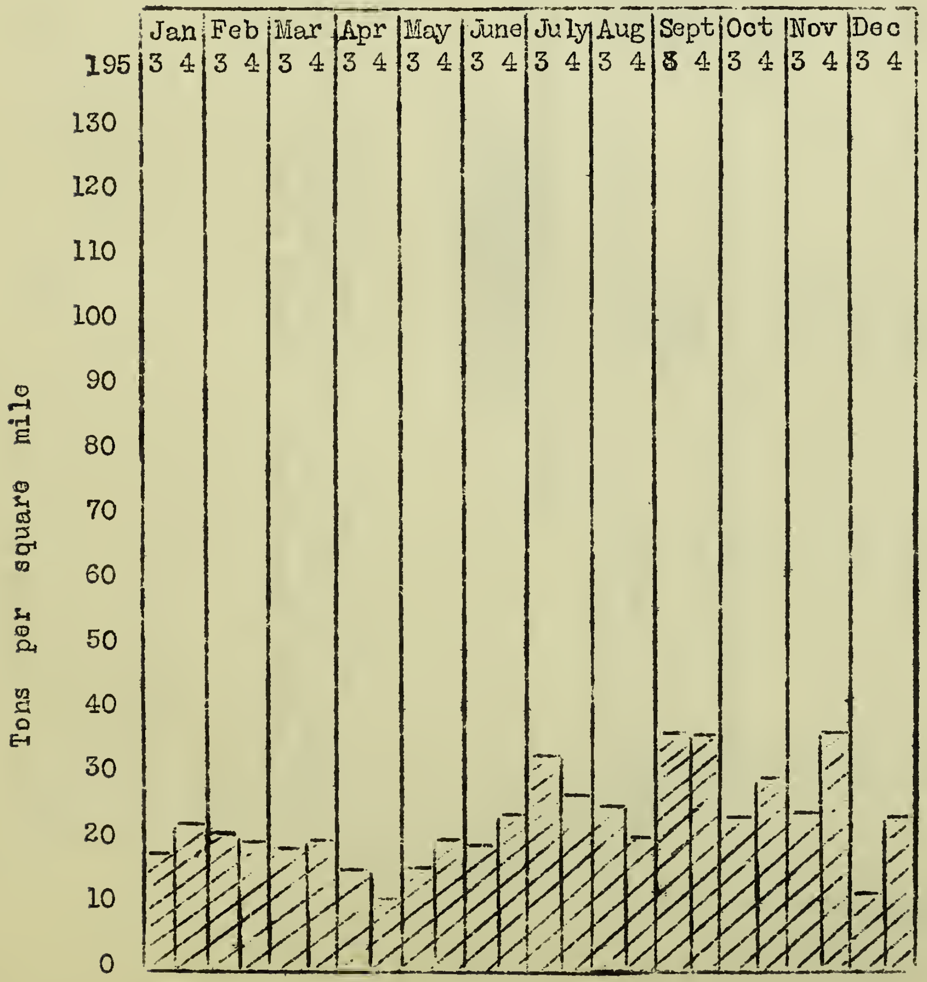
When compared with 1953 the deposited pollution shows an increase at Town Centre and a substantial increase at Taibach. This will be seen from the following table of results and the graph on the opposite page.

Month.	Deposited Pollution. (In tons per square mile).			
	Town Centre 1953	Town Centre 1954	Taibach 1953	Taibach 1954
January	17.76	22.48	43.70	38.05
February	20.68	19.56	94.28	45.89
March	18.54	19.56	54.20	53.66
April	16.60	10.50	45.35	38.22
May	15.41	19.27	47.32	47.26
June	19.00	24.10	54.20	62.25
July	33.06	26.05	91.60	82.60
August	25.63	20.35	64.09	110.25
September	36.12	35.56	69.36	137.23
October	23.61	29.89	47.36	108.51
November	24.10	36.75	61.28	97.99
December	11.92	23.87	25.40	47.90
Totals:	262.42	287.94	698.14	869.81

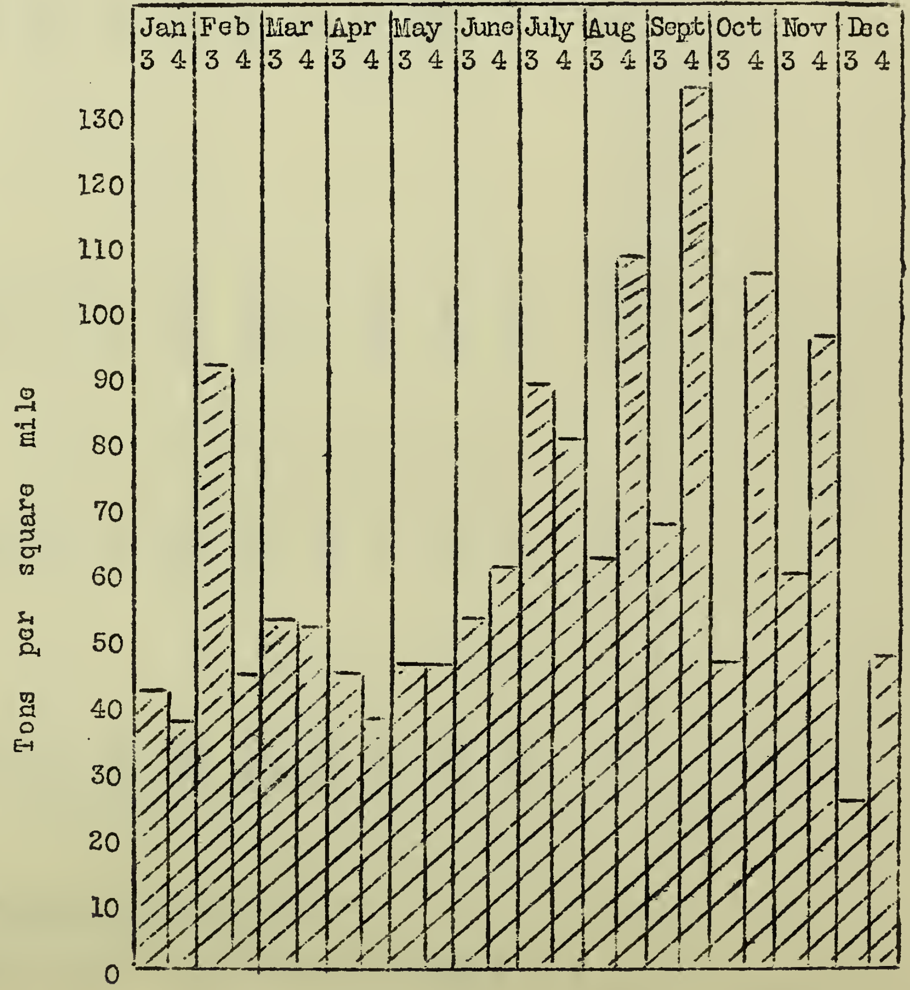
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION MEASUREMENT OF TOTAL DEPOSITED SOLIDS

COMPARISON GRAPHS 1953/54.

TOWN CENTRE.



TAIBACH.



The sulphur pollution shows a slight decrease at Town Centre and an increase at Taibach, as can be seen from the following table. A graph of the results is shown on the opposite page.

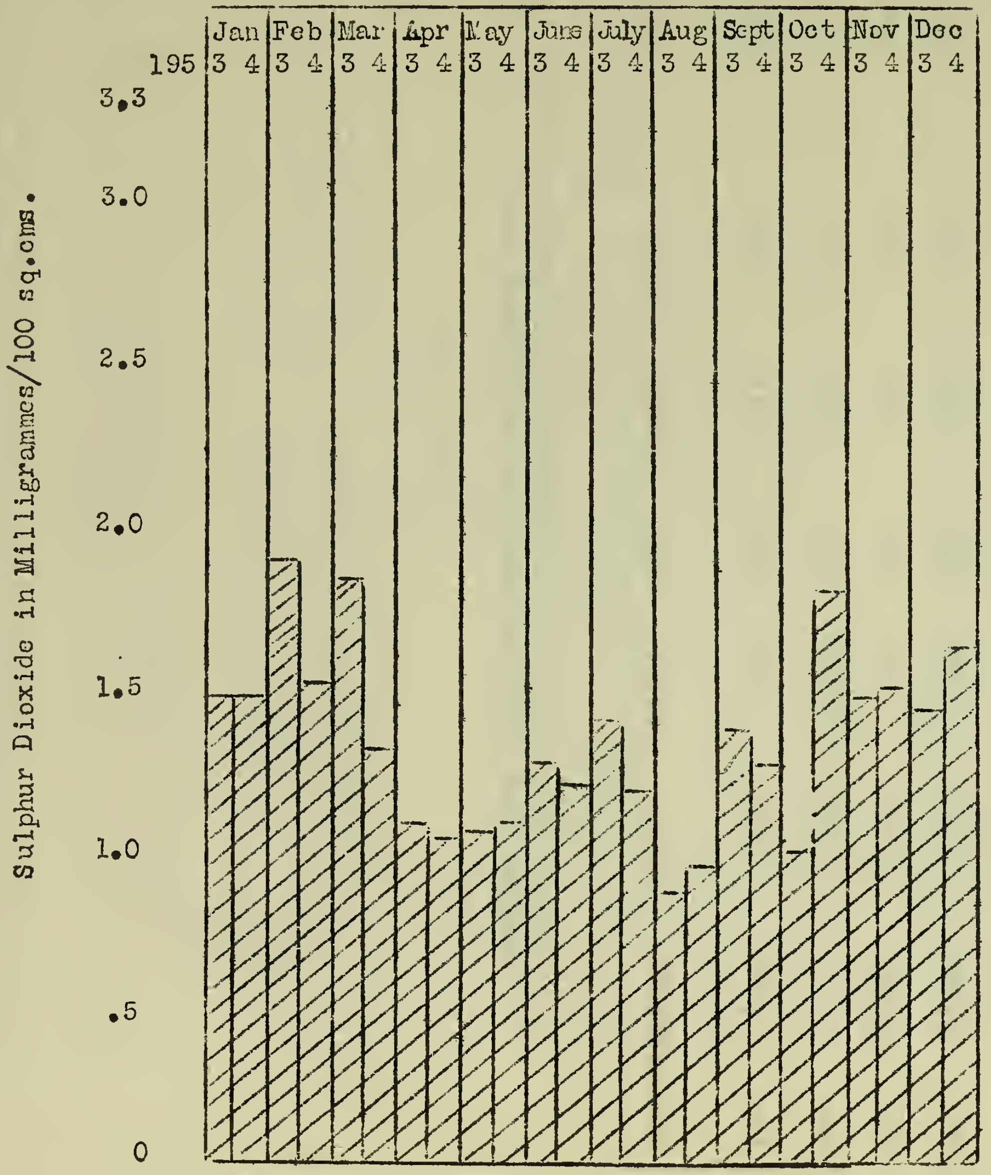
Atmospheric Sulphur
Dioxide Pollution
(In milligrammes per 100 sq. cms)

Month.	Town Centre 1953	Town Centre 1954	Taibach 1953	Taibach 1954
January	1.42	1.42	1.32	1.21
February	1.86	1.47	1.13	1.23
March	1.79	1.26	2.04	1.10
April	1.02	0.99	0.92	0.98
May	1.00	1.03	0.94	0.79
June	1.23	1.16	0.74	0.82
July	1.36	1.14	1.78	0.82
August	0.82	0.90	0.69	0.69
September	1.33	1.22	1.15	1.31
October	0.94	1.76	0.94	3.29
November	1.42	1.45	1.64	2.05
December	1.39	1.59	1.41	1.40
Totals:	15.58	15.39	14.70	15.69

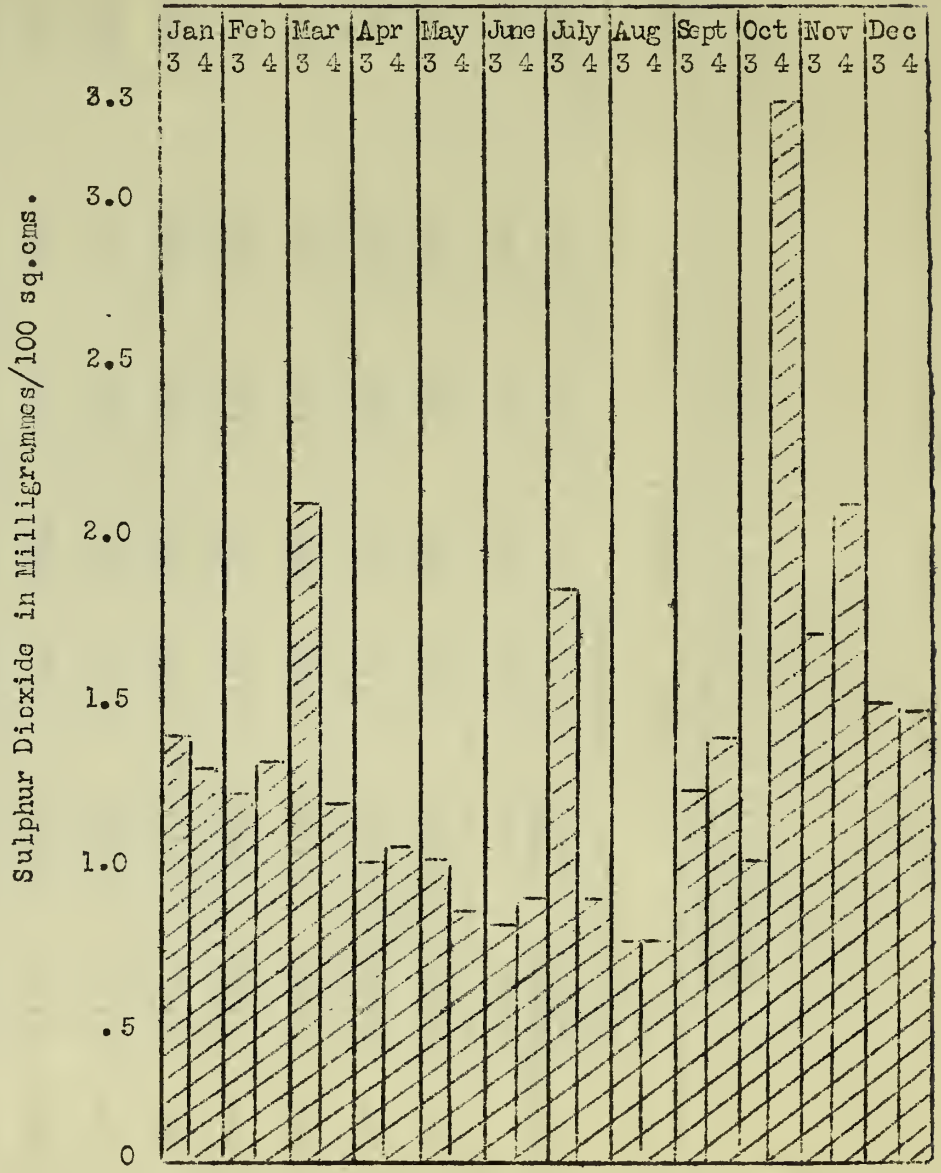
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION MEASUREMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE

COMPARISON GRAPHS 1953/54

TOWN CENTRE



TAIBACH



The rainfall for 1954 shows a substantial increase over 1953 whereas the sunshine for 1954 was much less than 1953.

Month.	Rainfall in inches.						Sunshine in hours	
	Town Centre 1953	Town Centre 1954	Groes 1953	Groes 1954	Taibach 1953	Taibach 1954	Groes 1953	Groes 1954
Jan	1.67	3.48	1.82	4.18	1.40	3.15	50.9	67.0
Feb	2.79	4.39	2.77	5.16	2.52	4.67	67.3	79.3
Mar	2.92	2.96	2.44	3.92	2.49	3.31	142.9	108.3
Apr	3.05	1.08	3.12	1.11	2.58	1.06	180.8	214.0
May	2.97	2.00	3.06	2.36	2.85	2.08	204.9	163.0
June	2.39	4.56	2.71	5.31	2.29	4.74	165.9	132.3
July	5.59	5.91	6.72	5.73	5.47	5.06	178.8	85.9
Aug	6.22	5.15	6.32	4.73	5.73	4.69	169.2	128.2
Sept	4.59	5.84	4.50	7.02	4.38	5.41	122.8	153.8
Oct	4.65	5.86	4.44	7.98	4.24	6.19	98.6	53.5
Nov	3.55	5.99	4.25	9.73	3.11	6.21	31.2	36.8
Dec	1.27	4.21	1.46	4.34	1.17	3.95	31.6	37.4
Total:	41.66	51.4	43.61	61.57	38.23	50.52	1444.9	1259.5

Having examined the foregoing statistics one can only conclude that 1954 was indeed, a very dismal year.

DECONTROL OF MEAT AND LIVESTOCK - SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

When the Minister announced that rationing and the control of meat would end on the 3rd July, 1954 and that from the 2nd July private slaughtering of animals for human consumption could be permitted, all local authorities were called upon to ascertain what slaughtering facilities were available in their areas so as to enable the distribution of home killed meat to proceed smoothly on de-control.

During pre-war years there were seven slaughterhouses in the Borough in addition to the Public Abattoir in Water Street, Aberavon. With this number of slaughterhouses I was never able to carry out a 100 per cent inspection of the meat of all animals slaughtered in the area.

Slaughtering taking place at the same time at so many slaughterhouses made it physically impossible to carry out the necessary meat inspection. It is only since slaughtering has been confined to the public abattoir, as a result of war-time control of slaughtering, that the public has been assured of a 100 per cent disease-free meat supply.

The owners of the seven private slaughterhouses in use before 1939 were, upon the de-control of meat, entitled to apply to Council for permission to proceed again with the slaughtering of animals on their premises. Some of these private slaughterhouses were in close proximity to dwelling houses, the occupants of which were subjected to unpleasant sounds, sights and smells associated with slaughtering. In some cases it was necessary to drive animals through narrow passages and back yards to reach the inadequate pens and lairages. Almost without exception there were no facilities for the proper cooling of carcases except in the vitiated atmosphere of the restricted slaughter chambers with a considerable risk of gross contamination by animal excreta. These premises were a travesty of progress - relics of by-gone days and a blot on our otherwise advanced standards.

Although our Public Abattoir lacked much that was desirable (the general condition of the abattoir has been reported upon in previous annual reports) it possessed adequate facilities to cope with the slaughtering of animals during the period of control for our own Borough, the surrounding areas and even Cardiff, Bristol and London markets. Council, therefore, had every reason to be satisfied that adequate slaughtering facilities existed within the Borough for this and the adjoining areas. Having regard to the general unsatisfactory condition of the seven private slaughterhouses in the area, it was felt that Council would be justified in refusing any application for re-licensing. One application only was received and after considering a detailed report on the premises, permission to re-open was refused.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

Council has entered into an agreement with the Fatstock Marketing Corporation for the slaughtering of animals at the Abattoir. Meat inspection is undertaken by each of your four District Sanitary Inspectors on a weekly rota basis, your Chief Sanitary Inspector functions in a supervisory capacity accepting an overall responsibility for the service.

As recommended by Memo 3/Meat, anti-mortem and post-mortem inspection of all animals is undertaken and an Inspector is present throughout the whole period of slaughtering. All meat inspected and passed bears the stamp of the Port Talbot Corporation.

The number of animals killed at varying periods is such that the Inspector has found himself, from time to time, working under pressure. The Inspector is concerned at all times that no unsound or diseased meat should go undetected. He also realizes that whatever meat he condemns may be the subject of further examination by an aggrieved owner who may utilize the service of a veterinary surgeon. Any carcase or organ in respect of which he finds himself unable to express an immediate and final opinion is placed on one side for further examination at the close of the slaughtering period. The examination is visual, by palpation of some organs and by the process of several incisions into carcase and organs together with other methods suggested in Memo 3/Meat. It is important also that he should keep records of diseases in respect of every animal.

Particulars of diseased and unsound meat condemned at our Abattoir are found under the heading of "Meat and Food Inspection" in this report, and also in the returns supplied to the Medical Officer of Health and included in his report.

A total of 44,497 animals was killed and examined during the year. The figures for the last 10 years being as follows:-

1945	22,978	1950	21,132
1946	20,978	1951	23,924
1947	14,920	1952	26,058
1948	14,519	1953	27,383
1949	19,519	1954	44,497

It will be noticed that there has been a progressive increase in the number of animals killed during recent years with a very substantial increase during 1954.

Detailed figures for the year are shown on the opposite page.

HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF MEAT:

The handling and transport of meat has been fairly satisfactory. The vehicles used are all especially constructed closed vans which afford every protection from contamination by dust or filth. Since de-control, however, several butchers are transporting their supplies in light vans. The possibility of contamination of the meat under such conditions is being closely watched.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 AND SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1953.

Arrangements between the Slaughterhouse Manager and your Inspectors worked very harmoniously during the year. The times of slaughtering varied considerably. Inspectors have been obliged to work late into the evenings, and often during weekends. In no single instance was it necessary to issue a warning or corrective during the year, for the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act were complied with in every respect.

ANNUAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE RETURNS

The weekly Slaughtering Returns for 1954 were as follows:-

1954 Week Ending		Weekly Total	Grand Total	Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers		Cows		Calves		Sheep		Pigs (Private)		Pigs (Ministry of Food)	
				Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Jan.	2nd	17	17	10	10	5	5	Nil	Nil	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	9th	437	454	41	51	3	8	53	53	315	317	Nil	Nil	25	25
	16th	512	966	32	83	10	18	33	86	384	701	1	1	52	77
	23rd	726	1692	15	98	9	27	42	128	578	1279	Nil	1	82	159
	30th	590	2282	21	119	1	28	55	183	453	1732	Nil	1	60	219
Feb.	6th	750	3032	14	133	14	42	77	260	585	2317	Nil	1	60	279
	13th	420	3452	4	137	8	50	84	344	234	2551	Nil	1	90	369
	20th	526	3978	5	142	22	72	74	418	334	2885	Nil	1	91	460
	27th	279	4257	7	149	18	90	82	500	65	2950	Nil	1	107	567
March	6th	522	4779	13	162	15	105	75	575	314	3264	Nil	1	105	672
	13th	423	5202	13	175	25	130	72	647	210	3474	Nil	1	103	775
	20th	462	5664	12	187	20	150	78	725	221	3695	Nil	1	131	906
	27th	424	6088	43	230	1	151	74	799	194	3889	Nil	1	112	1018
April	3rd	419	6507	28	258	8	159	44	843	218	4107	Nil	1	121	1139
	10th	390	6875	30	288	Nil	159	44	887	188	4295	Nil	1	128	1267
	17th	412	7309	7	295	11	170	49	936	201	4496	2	3	142	1409
	24th	267	7576	20	315	9	179	51	987	65	4561	Nil	3	122	1531
May	1st	350	7926	44	359	13	192	54	1041	153	4714	Nil	3	86	1617
	8th	394	8320	49	408	13	205	58	1099	136	4850	Nil	3	138	1755
	15th	592	8912	54	462	2	207	47	1146	324	5174	Nil	3	165	1920
	22nd	610	9522	45	507	9	216	35	1181	375	5549	Nil	3	146	2066
	29th	688	10210	17	524	15	231	32	1213	500	6049	Nil	3	124	2190
June	5th	931	11141	6	530	16	247	39	1252	761	6810	Nil	3	109	2299
	12th	975	12116	15	545	3	250	28	1280	858	7668	Nil	3	71	2370
	19th	907	13023	23	568	23	273	47	1327	735	8403	Nil	3	79	2449
	26th	460	13483	19	587	18	291	Nil	1327	349	8752	Nil	3	74	2523
July	3rd	574	14057	36	623	10	301	Nil	1327	492	9244	Nil	3	36	2559
	10th	820	14877	52	675	1	302	8	1335	661	9905	Nil	3	98	2657
	17th	1069	15946	59	734	12	314	5	1340	815	10720	6	9	172	2829
	24th	1320	17266	69	803	7	321	4	1344	1147	11867	3	12	90	2919
	31st	1474	18740	71	874	7	328	12	1356	1258	13125	Nil	12	126	3045
August	7th	1319	20059	70	944	3	331	13	1369	1135	14260	Nil	12	98	3143
	14th	1156	21215	86	1030	7	338	Nil	1369	950	15210	Nil	12	113	3256
	21st	1214	22429	69	1099	8	346	11	1380	993	16203	3	15	130	3386
	28th	1393	23822	68	1167	12	358	2	1382	1233	17436	Nil	15	78	3464

1954 Week ending.		Weekly Total	Grand Total	Bulls, Bullocks & Heifers Weekly Total	Bulls, Bullocks & Heifers Grand Total	Cows. Weekly Total	Cows. Grand Total	Calves Weekly Total	Calves Grand Total	Sheep Weekly Total	Sheep Grand Total	Pigs (Private) Weekly Total	Pigs (Private) Grand Total	Pigs (Ministry of Food) Weekly Total	Pigs (Ministry of Food) Grand Total
Sept.	4th	1432	25254	84	1251	9	367	34	1416	1207	18643	4	19	94	3558
	11th	1019	26273	83	1334	19	386	3	1419	764	19407	Nil	19	150	3708
	18th	1080	27353	76	1410	6	392	23	1442	817	20224	Nil	19	158	3866
	25th	1371	28724	72	1482	19	411	84	1526	1023	21247	Nil	19	173	4039
Oct.	2nd	1123	29847	72	1554	7	418	19	1545	851	22098	Nil	19	174	4213
	9th	1527	31374	85	1639	2	420	113	1658	1129	23227	Nil	19	198	4411
	16th	1351	32725	86	1725	6	426	157	1815	909	24136	Nil	19	193	4604
	23rd	1307	34032	66	1791	10	436	134	1949	920	25056	Nil	19	177	4781
	30th	1384	35416	95	1886	9	445	75	2024	1008	26064	Nil	19	197	4978
Nov.	6th	1383	36799	93	1979	7	452	85	2109	970	27034	Nil	19	228	5206
	13th	1210	38009	80	2059	13	465	90	2199	809	27843	Nil	19	218	5424
	20th	1251	39260	91	2150	5	470	53	2252	877	28720	Nil	19	225	5649
	27th	1053	40313	83	2233	15	485	39	2291	670	29390	Nil	19	246	5895
Dec.	4th	1037	41350	88	2321	8	493	55	2346	684	30074	Nil	19	202	6097
	11th	990	42340	78	2399	19	512	3	2349	673	30747	Nil	19	217	6314
	18th	1124	43464	118	2517	5	517	43	2392	630	31377	Nil	19	328	6642
	25th	419	43883	23	2540	3	520	26	2418	221	31598	Nil	19	146	6788
	31st	614	44497	50	2590	5	525	3	2421	556	32154	Nil	19	Nil	6788

SYNOPSIS. 1954.

	Animals Killed	Animals Inspected.	Condemnations-Tuberculosis. Entire Carcases.	Condemnations-Tuberculosis. Part of carcase or organ.	Condemnations-Tuberculosis. Percentage of Total Killed	Condemndations other than Tuberculosis. Entire Carcases.	Condemndations other than Tuberculosis. Part of Carcase or organ.	Condemndations other than Tuberculosis. Percentage of Total Killed.
Bulls, Bullocks & Heifers	2590	2590	4	116	4.63	1	1400	53.1
Cows:	525	525	10	38	9.14	10	350	68.57
Calves:	2421	2421	2	Nil	0.08	11	126	5.66
Sheep:	32154	32154	Nil	Nil	-	67	14005	43.76
Pigs:	6807	6807	1	357	5.26	6	3419	50.3

CYSTERCERCUS BOVIS: The following table gives the incidence of C. Bovis found in animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during 1954:-

	Killed.	Affected.	Percentage.
Bulls, Bullocks & Heifers	2590	33	1.27
Cows	525	4	0.76

CYSTERCERCUS BOVIS.

It will be noticed that in the slaughtering returns included in recent annual reports special reference is made to the existence of Cystercercus Bovis found in animals at the Public Abattoir. Council should be aware of the reasons for these special references.

As recently as 1947 it was not believed necessary to carry out routine examination for the presence of the parasite known as Cystercercus Bovis. In 1948 an extensive infection of beef animals by this parasite was becoming rather alarming. A request was made by the Area Technical Meat Advisor of the Ministry of Food that all abattoirs should adopt a regular procedure of examination for the detection of Cystercercus Bovis in beef animals.

This parasite exists in two stages, each resident in a separate host. The cyst form, called the cystercercus stage in cattle, and the adult tape-worm or Taenia in man. When introduced into the human system it develops into a tape-worm of anything from 20 to 30 feet in length and gives rise to countless quantities of eggs which are evacuated with the excreta. By means of suckers the tape worm clings to the walls of the human intestines.

The discovery of this disease in Scotland and in some parts of England and Wales during 1947/48 was assumed to be due to the existence during the war years of thousands of Polish, German and other continental troops in this country. These men, throughout the years in their own countries, having been infected with the tape-worm stage of cystercercus bovis passed out the ova of the tape-worm with their faeces, the sewage from the camps being eventually emptied on to grazing land from which the ova was picked up by cattle.

The keeness of the inspection required for this parasite may be appreciated when it is realised that the cysts may vary in size from the size of a millett seed to that of a pea, the average size being that of a lintel. A white spot is visible in the small cyst and this is the scolex or parent of the future tape worm.

The cystercercus bovis may occur in bovines at any age after that of the suckling calf. The principal locations of the cyst and the order in which the parts are affected are:-

(a) head - inner and outer masticatory muscles;
(b) tongue - muscles of the root or base;
(c) heart muscles - and;
(d) the rib intercostal muscles.
(e) the thick skirt - pillars of the diaphragm.

In severe infestation, however, they are met with in the oesophagus and diaphragm, shoulder muscles and also rump. Even in slight infestation, cases have been recorded of isolated cysts having been found in such widely distributed parts as the lungs, liver, lymphatic gland and brain, etc. Inspection includes a general visual examination of carcase and organs with numerous incisions into the massetor muscles of the cheek, the tongue, the heart and also the intercostal muscles of the ribs.

The average number of cattle found to be affected during the last three years at our Abattoir was -

	Affected.	Percentage.
Bulls, Bullocks & Heifers	60	2.623
Cows	8	1.556

It will be observed from the figures shown in the 1954 returns that there is a substantial reduction in the number of animals found to be infected when compared with the average figures for the previous three years.

RENT & MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS.

Three certificates under the Rent & Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act were granted during the year as follows:-

3 Maestog Road, Bryn; 4 Bryngurnos Street, Bryn;
12 Alexandra Street, Aberavon.

FACTORIES.

The activities of your Sanitary Department in relation to these duties imposed upon this Council by the Factory Acts of 1937 and 1948 were as follows:-

1. Inspection of Factories:

Premises on Register. (1)	Inspection. (2)	Number of written notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
239	225	4	-

2. Particulars Found in Factories:

Particulars	Found	Cases in which defects were found			Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred by H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	2	-	3	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	2	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	-	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	11	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	27	29	-	1	-
Total	39	47	-	9	-

Work carried out during the year was:-

Lighting or ventilation improved	2
Washup sinks fixed	4
Floors and yards repaired	4
Walls repaired	8
Roofs, shoots and downspouts repaired	1
W.C. accommodation improved	11
Washing facilities (including hot water) provided or improved	4
Accumulations removed	3
Wastepipes provided to sinks	1
Ceilings repaired or underdrawn	3
Intervening ventilated space provided	1
Walls and ceilings cleansed	1
Sanitary accommodation cleansed	1
Doors repaired or renewed	1
Overcrowding abated	2
Total	47

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

During the last 30 years there has been a reduction in the number of common lodging houses from seven to two. The two premises now registered are situated respectively at Greenpark and Cwmavon Road. An application was made during the year by Mrs. Winifred Goosens to be registered as the keeper of the lodging house at Cwmavon Road, she being the niece of the previous keeper who had been registered by Council for this premises. It was felt that this was an opportunity for a further reduction in the number of lodging houses in the Borough. There was a feeling, however, that such lodging house accommodation should still be retained and subject to the necessary repairs being carried out by the owners it was agreed to register Mrs. Goosens as the keeper. It is very pleasing to report that there has been a substantial improvement in the general conditions of this premises and satisfactory administrative control is maintained.

Common lodging houses provide shelter and comfort but they cannot be judged by standards prevailing in the average dwelling house. The independence, freedom and social atmosphere of such premises is such that the inmates prefer to be in these establishments rather than reside in eventide homes or in the average dwelling house. I have known some of the people who reside in our common lodging houses to have lived there for over 20 years.

During the year 134 visits of inspection were made by your officers. A check on the number of lodgers accommodated in these houses is also made from time to time. The number of beds and the average number of lodgers in both lodging houses during the year was as follows:-

Premises.	No. of beds allowed	No. of lodgers accommodated	Amount of spare accommodation
40/42 Cwmavon Road	55	16	39
55/57 Greenpark	52	39	13
	107	55	52

It will be appreciated from the foregoing particulars that ample lodging house accommodation exists in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 - RODENT CONTROL.

Our rodent control activities are confined to the extermination of three species of rodents -

Rattus norvegicus	- the common brown rat
Rattus rattus	- the black or ship's rat
Mus musculus	- the common mouse

The method employed locally in the extermination of rats is principally poisoning after several days pre-baiting. We have, however, in a few cases practiced trapping and fumigation. During the year we commenced to use a blood anti-coagulant known as "Warfarin".

The only control methods which can be considered satisfactory are those capable of achieving complete clearance. The degree of success of any operation can only be measured by subsequent absence of damage caused by rodents, not by the number of dead. I cannot over-emphasise this latter point.

We often wonder why, with our constant rodent extermination activities, we should still be troubled by rats. We can appreciate somewhat the task when it is realised that a female rat, on reaching the age of three or four months, is capable of producing a litter of, on an average, eight young every three or four weeks. With the natural protection afforded by open country, scrub and undergrowth, culverts, sewers, buildings, etc., complete eradication is indeed difficult.

Rats convey disease and consume and damage considerable quantities of our food. Every effort should, therefore, be made to destroy rats in the area.

The rat or mouse colony requires three things - a supply of water, access to food stuffs and materials for building nests. Whilst mice nest close to their food supply, rats tend to wander further in search of suitable sites so that nests are not always to be found in the place where damage is being done, but may be in a neighbouring building or open ground. The presence of rats may be detected in many ways, the most common being by damage done to food and stored products. The ordinary methods employed to prove the presence of rats is by detection of droppings, smear on walls, cupboards, etc., holes and earth works, gnawing marks, foot marks and tail marks, tracks on runways, claw marks and if there is any doubt we introduce what is known as "test baiting".

To exterminate rats we use, where possible, a poison bait. We pre-bait for four days with bread mash or sausage rusk, then, when the rats are eating with confidence, we mix the pre-bait with zinc phosphide or arsenious oxide. In laying the baits regard has to be had to certain peculiarities associated with rat behaviour otherwise it will not eat with the confidence which is so necessary if a maximum kill is to be obtained.

We sometimes find it extremely dangerous to use poison and we have then to consider alternative methods. In certain circumstances we are obliged to resort to traps. On open land or, where there are extensive burrows, we have used fumigation methods by the introduction of a cyanide powder into the rat holes, the holes being then sealed up with soil. This fine cyanide powder gives off hydro-cyanic gas on exposure to moisture of air or soil. In very low concentration in enclosed space it is rapidly fatal to rodents.

We have commenced to use a blood anti-coagulant substance officially known as "Warfarin". The effectiveness of anti-coagulants in rodent control has introduced an entirely new technique, which dispenses with pre-baiting in favour of permanent "strategic" baiting. Warfarin is a complex synthetic chemical 3 -(alpha-phenyl-beta-acetylethyl)-4-hydroxycoumarin, closely allied to certain substances used for the treatment of human thrombosis. Warfarin destroys the ability of blood to clot or coagulate on exposure to the air.

Rats feeding on Warfarin mixed with an acceptable bait base die from internal haemorrage. They must first feed regularly for three to ten days on the baits; gradually they become lethargic and slow in their movements and eventually die painlessly from one or more of the following causes:

(a) filling of lungs with blood;
(b) insufficient blood to carry oxidation round the body; and
(c) shock to vital organs of the body.

This entirely new technique of rodent control has several advantages over other methods and it is my intention to increase its use for rat extermination in the Borough.

It is regrettable to find on our many investigations of rodent infestation that these pests are attracted to dwelling houses and other places as a result of indiscriminate tipping of domestic refuse on wasteland, open spaces and even around dwelling houses. It is surprising too, to find the quantity of food scraps that are left in back yards and gardens, these prove a certain attraction to rats. From time to time we find that the people who complain of rodent infestation are those who are guilty of the practices I have referred to.

A brief record of our activities during the year is as follows:-

PRIVATE DWELLINGS:

No. of houses	Baiting Points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen	Nett cost
257	1574	730 lbs 14 ozs	4lbs 10½ozs	2458	383	£228.1.5d.

BUSINESS PREMISES:

No. of premises	Baiting Points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen	Cost Recoverable
27	451	144lbs 11 ozs	15½ ozs	249	20	£30. 6. 0d.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PREMISES:

Premises.	Baiting points	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen	Nett cost
12	442	267 lbs 8 ozs	1 lb 8 ozs	1,013	227	£45. 2. 8d.

SEWER TREATMENT:

No. of manholes baited	Sausage Rusk used	Poison used	Estimated kill	Bodies seen	Nett cost
388	63lbs 12 ozs	8 ozs	207	42	£34.14.10½d

We treat private premises free of any charge to the occupier, unless, of course, there is gross negligence contributing to the rat infestation. Work on business or industrial premises is subject to re-imbursement of the cost of such work to the Council. The Council costs include the time of the rodent operative, cost of material used plus a 20% establishment charge. (The establishment charge has now been increased to 25%).

OTHER PESTS:

From time to time we are consulted or invited to dwelling houses and other premises which may be affected by various insect pests. As far as possible advice is freely given and materials supplied for treatment. Occasionally we assist by spraying and treating the premises with liquid and powdered insecticide.

An arrangement now exists, on instruction of Council, that the sanitary inspector examines each and every Council house when there is a change or termination of tenancy. This is a task that cannot be rushed, for evidence of vermin is often difficult to find.

During 1954, 414 Council houses and 20 private houses were examined for vermin.

INFESTATION OF EARWIGS:

During the year we had numerous complaints of infestation by earwigs of Council houses on the Sandfields Estate.

The superstition that earwigs attack people in the ears is, of course, quite unfounded. The name is probably a corruption from "Earwing" as the hind-wing is somewhat ear-shaped.

As a household pest the earwigs are usually intruders from the garden. They do not breed indoors. New housing estates are often troubled as the earwigs have been dispossessed of their natural habitat by the building operations. It is possible that these insects were originally present in the sand in the Aberavon area.

The most effective bait was, of course, a sodium flouride with a suitable base, but the dangers of this poison would be obvious. "Gammexane" powder was, therefore, distributed to occupiers to dust into cracks and crevices, garden paths and window sills. In some of the most grossly infested houses we used our spraying equipment to spray window sills, door ways and paved areas with "Gammexane Emulsion Concentrate".

To deal with the nuisance in the sandy soil was not an easy matter but occupiers were advised to dust the surfaces of the soil and any suspected vegetation with Gammexane Powder which was supplied.

A very effective insecticide known as "Fuminol" Liquid Concentrate, Formula No: 13 was used with much success. The occupiers of several infested houses expressed pleasure at the results obtained.

CINEMAS.

A total of 48 visits of inspection was made to the six cinemas in the Borough during the year. These premises are licensed annually when the reports of your officers are considered by the Cinema Licensing Committee. Much improvement has taken place during recent years in the general cleanliness, sanitary arrangements and ventilation of our cinemas. The general hygienic conditions during 1954 were satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Fish frying has ceased to be an offensive trade within the Borough. This trade is now controlled by the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and Byelaws. Our offensive trades are limited to two rag and bone collecting premises and a fat extracting and melting premises, to which frequent visits of inspection are made. No serious nuisance or byelaw infringement was discovered during 1954. From time to time, however, we have experienced fat melting odours in the atmosphere near the fat extracting premises. Invariably when a check has been made some slight breakdown or failure on the part of the men employed has been discovered. Having regard to the offensive character of this trade and the direction of the prevailing winds in the area one feels that the business is being fairly well conducted. However, the position is being closely watched and immediate action is at all times taken when there is the least likelihood of any discomfort being caused to the residents of this area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The investigation of the general conditions associated with cases of infectious disease notified is undertaken by your Sanitary Inspectors. The isolation of patients, contacts and possible source of infection is checked.

The number of inspections made during the year under this heading was 90 and a total of 78 houses and 149 lots of bedding, clothing, etc., was disinfected. In one case action was taken in accordance with Section 167 of the Public Health Act, 1936 when the whole of the furniture, domestic articles, etc., from the dwelling house of a person, who had suffered from an infection, was removed and destroyed by fire.

The cases investigated during 1954 were as follows:-

DIPHTHERIA: There were no cases requiring our investigation during the year.

SCARLET FEVER: Thirty-one cases were reported and investigated. All cases proved positive.

POLIOMYELITIS: There were two cases reported but neither was positive.

DYSENTRY: One positive case.

PARATYPHOID: There were 19 positive cases reported.

ERYSIPELAS: Six positive cases reported.

MENINGITIS: Two positive cases reported.

SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES.

A survey of unfit houses throughout the Borough was commenced towards the end of 1954. In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954 local authorities were required to submit to the Minister proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their districts. These proposals were to be submitted to the Minister by the 30th August, 1955. It was hoped that whatever proposals would be sent to the Minister would be operated upon within the following 5 years. Staffing proposals at the time, however, retarded somewhat the progress of this work, but at the time of writing this report the survey has been practically completed and broad outlines of the number of houses to be dealt with have been submitted to the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Before our proposals are finalised and phased, there are several matters that will have to be resolved by the Council before we commence to implement the provisions of the Housing Acts in respect of houses how being scheduled for Clearance or Demolition Order procedure.

A special report setting out the procedure to be followed and incorporating much of the experience gathered from our previous Slum Clearance Programme was présented to the Joint Housing and Public Health Committee during the year.

Sixteen Demolition Orders were made and thirty-one "Undertakings to Close" unfit houses were accepted during 1954. Of the thirty-one Undertakings, twenty six of the houses involved were eventually demolished.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

We were reluctantly obliged to institute the following prosecutions during the year:-

Name.	Offence.	Result.
Mrs. E. Hazelwood, 15 Vivian Terrace, Aberavon, Port Talbot.	Structural defects at 26 Vivian Terrace and also nuisance from keeping of pigs	First adjourned for 2 months to give owner an opportunity to complete works. On re-hearing the case respecting strúctural repairs the work not having been completed the Magistrates made an Order for the repairs to be completed within 2 months and awarded costs. In the latter instance the nuisance being abated costs were awarded.
Mrs. J. Williams, 2 Thomas Street, Aberavon, Port Talbot.	Structural defects at 2 Pendarvis Terrace, Aberavon.	Case adjourned for 2 months to give owner opportunity to complete works. On the re-hearing the Magistrates adjourned the case for a further 6 weeks because the owner was experiencing some legal difficulties in obtaining the necessary finance to do the work. At the second re-hearing it was further adjourned for 1 month. It was again heard and adjourned for 3 months and finally the Bench gave an Order for 4 months with costs.

Name.	Offence	Result.
G. S. Roedemer, Esq., Margam Estate Offices, Station Road, Port Talbot.	Structural defects at 3 Varna Terrace, Taibach.	Adjourned for 1 month to give owner opportunity for work to be carried out. At the re-hearing a further adjournment for 14 days was given. At the second re-hearing the works having been completed the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs by defendant.
G. S. Roedemer, Esq., Margam Estate Offices, Station Road, Port Talbot.	Structural defects at 32 Commercial Road, Taibach.	Adjourned for 1 month to give owner opportunity for work to be carried out. At the re-hearing a further adjournment for 14 days was given. At the second re-hearing the works having been completed the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs by defendant.
Mr. William Roy Sheedy, 57 Maesglas Avenue, Newport, Mon.	Three offences under Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years.	A total of £6. 0. 0 fine.
Mr. G. H. Mitchell, 35 North Street, Newport.	Offence against Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years	Fined £3. 0. 0d.
Mrs. H. G. West, "Goldthorne", Taffs Wells Road, Cardiff.	Structural defects at 4 Bryngurnos Street, Bryn.	Order obtained for the work to be done within 6 months. Costs awarded to the Corporation.
Mr. M. Mitrovic, 13 Hendre Road, Abertridwr.	Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years.	Fined £1. 0. 0d.
Mr. F. Lewis, 88 Illan Road, Abertridwr.	Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years. (Aiding and abetting Mitrovic).	Fined £1. 0. 0d.

Name.	Offence.	Result.
Mr. William Roy Sheedy, 57 Maesglas Avenue, Newport, Mon.	Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years.	Fined £3. 0. 0d.
Mr. A. Howells, Pant Howell Ddu, Briton Ferry.	Sanitary defects at 3 Mervyn Terrace, Cwmavon.	Order imposed for the work to be done within 2 months and costs awarded to the Cprporation.
Mr. W. Evans, Galltcwm Farm, Bryn.	Structural and sanitary defects at 11 Chapel Terrace, Bryn.	At the hearing it was reported that part of the work had been done and the case was, therefore, adjourned for one month. At the re-hearing most of the work had been done and the case was adjourned for a further month.
Messrs. Winston & William John Hunt, Fairfield Avenue, Maesteg.	Structural defects at 3,8,9 and 11 Maesteg Road, Bryn.	Case adjourned for ohe month. At the re-hearing an Order was made in respect of 3,8 and 9 Maesteg Road for the work to be done within 2 months and costs were awarded to the Corporation. In respect of No: 11 Maesteg Road work had been done and costs were awarded.
Mr. D. Harris, 40 Gwendoline Street, Aberavon.	Structural defects at 40 Gwendoline Street, Aberavon.	Magistrates made an Order for the work to be done within 4 months and awarded costs to the Corporation.
Mr. Richard Morgan, 13 Courtland Place, Port Talbot.	Structural and sanitary defects at 85 Sandfields Road, Aberavon.	Case withdrawn owing to the defendant's demise.
Mrs. Doris Hearne, 57 Coednant Road, Caerau, Maesteg.	Structural and sanitary defects at 10 Maesteg Road, Bryn.	Order imposed for the work to be done within 3 months and costs awarded to the Corporation
Malgwyn D. Richards & Margaret Richards, 3 & 4 Commercial Blds., Port Talbot.	Contravdntion of Section 3, Food & Drugs Act, 1938. Sale of boiled sweets containing an excess of sulphur dioxide to the extent of 315 p.p.m. Defendant summoned manufacturers Mr. G. B. Watts, Confectioners, Landore, Swansea under Section 83, Food & Drugs Act, 1938	Fined £2. 0. 0d. and costs.

Name.	Offence.	Result.
Godfrey Mitchell, 31 Agincourt Street, Newport.	Contravention of Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936. Exchange of Toys for Rags with children under the age of 14 years.	Fined £3. 0. 0d.
The Welsh Country Maid, Ltd., Neath Abbey, Neath.	Contravention of Section 3, Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - sale of wrapped sliced loaf, not of the substance demanded by the purchaser in that it contained a lint bandage dressing.	Fined £5. 0. 0d.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
4 OCT 1955
P.

BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

for the Year

1954

BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT

ANNUAL REPORT

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for the Year

1954

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillor Ivor Williams (January - May)
Councillor Percy G. Gaen (May - December)

OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

Dr. D.H.J. Williams, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

G.A. MORGAN, (C.R.S.I. & C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector. C.I.H. & C.R.S.I. School Hygiene and Physiology General Hygiene Diploma, Institute of Hygiene, Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales. Fellow Royal Sanitary Institute. Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association).

L.J. CARTER, Sanitary Inspector, (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

S. TAYLOR, Sanitary Inspector, (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector, Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales. C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

I.G. HEYCOCK, Sanitary Inspector, (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

T.T. REES, Sanitary Inspector, (C.S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

W. GEORGE:	Drain Tester & Disinfector.
E. DUMMER:	Rodent Operative.
MISS DAPHNE BROWN:	Clerk.
MISS BETTY LEWIS:	Clerk.

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BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen/

At the end of the year or as soon after as may be practicable it becomes the Statutory duty of the Medical Officer of Health to prepare an Annual Report on the Health and Welfare of the community which he serves. In accordance with Circular1/54(Wales)from the Welsh Board of Health I therefore beg to submit for consideration of Council my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The state of health and progress of the community is measured by the incidence of disease, by the birth and death rates, and by a study of the infant and maternal mortality. Such details are incorporated in the Report of the Medical Officer and form year by year the barometer or guide, when conjoined with similar reports prepared by colleagues throughout the land, to the health of the Nation.

In this report special consideration is given to the existing Water Supplies of the Borough. This is a subject which has caused grave concern to all responsible for maintaining an adequate and wholesome supply of an important necessity. Water plays many vital roles in the maintenance of the community health. Not only is it a daily necessity for drinking, cooking and cleaning purposes but forms an integral part of our sewage disposal system. In an urbanised area a water carriage system of sewage disposal is indispensable. To these must of course be added the ever increasing demands of our expanding industries. Shortage of water can restrict industrial progress and output and thus retard development, even lead to unemployment with its concommitant misery. The importance of ensuring an adequate quantity and reserve therefore cannot be overstressed.

I am grateful to the Borough Engineer and his Staff for their work in preparing the details incorporated in the Report on the Borough water problem.

By and large the field of infectious diseases produced no formidable problems during 1954. Certain diseases however tend to explode in the community when least expected. The General Practitioners were therefore to be complimented when in late February they recognised and immediately notified what became a minor outbreak of Paratyphoid B. This is discussed in detail under its heading later in the Report. An outbreak of food poisoning following a meal at a works canteen is also discussed.

The arrangements for refuse collection and disposal received special consideration during the year, particular emphasis being placed on collection. Council decided to adopt regulation pattern receptacles for the collection of household refuse. This is discussed in detail in its appropriate section below.

Weather and climatic conditions have long been recognised as a factor affecting the general health of the population. The relatively sunless summer of 1954 coupled with increased rainfall was bound to sap the vitality of the populace and in discussions and conversation with the borough family doctors this was confirmed. Whilst the state ofhealth by and large remained good there was a general rise in minor sickness particularly of the upper respiratory system.

Towards the end of the year the impact of this rise in sickness was felt particularly amongst the Outside Staff of Council. This was evidenced by a steady flow of cases enjoying the benefits of Council's Sickness Scheme passing through my hands.

Before drawing these introductory remarks to a close I would like to express my appreciation to all members of Council and to my colleagues in all Departments for their wholehearted co-operation in maintaining and raising the standards of health of those we serve during the year.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Unemployment figures form an index of the state of "health" of the country and - in Port Talbot - of its industries. From the statistics given below, kindly supplied by the Manager of the Port Talbot Employment Exchange, it will be readily appreciated that the industrial "health" continues good.

Unemployed at end of	Men.	Women.
December 1948	188	276
December 1949	168	162
December 1950	77	151
December 1951	61	50
December 1952	76	61
December 1953	80	30
December 1954	77	39

Of 748 men and 41 women on the Disabled Persons Register at the end of the year, only 24 men and 4 women were wholly unemployed at the end of the year, 53 men and 5 women having been suitably placed in employment during the year.

Full employment secures regular wages with concomitant security and a general rise in the standard of living. Regular pay packets coming into the home lead by and large to better food, more variety in diet, better clothing and footwear with resultant improvement in community health.

RAINFALL.

I append below the Rainfall as calculated in inches during the year for the Town Centre.

1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.
51.4	41.7	44.4	49.3	53.5	39.5	48.8	29.9	47.6	41.5	39.2

AREA.

The borough area, inclusive of foreshore is estimated to be 25,648 acres.

RATES.

Rateable Value of the Borough at 31st. March 1954	- £304,893.
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31st. March 1954	-£1175.13.2.981d.

Mr. D.J. Young, Secretary and Comptroller of the Steel Company of Wales has kindly submitted the following facts for incorporation under the General Information heading of this Report.

"(1) We have 11,490 Operatives and Staff employed in the Works.

(2) 3.14% are registered disabled.

(3) At the end of 1954 the following Canteen services were in operation:-

3 Main kitchens with messrooms attached.
13 Messrooms with full serveries.
4 Messrooms without serveries plus a large number of local messrooms distributed throughout departments.

Of the thirteen messrooms with serveries five are serviced on three shifts and eight are serviced on two shifts. We now make available cooked breakfasts, lunches and teas with snack suppers. Cooked suppers are available for those people who are called upon to work beyond their normal finishing time. The sale of milk, minerals and confectionery takes place during meal breaks. The more remote parts of the plant are serviced by eight fully mobile canteens and there are, of course, tea, coffee and biscuit services available for offices during the morning and afternoon.

(4) Our full time Medical Staff is now:-

1	Resident Doctor
4	Part-time Doctors
5	State Registered Male Nurses
6	State Registered Female Nurses
21	Medical attendants
4	Ambulance drivers
1	Chartered Physiotherapist

The Medical Centre in the General Office building is now complete and is comprised of: Resident Doctor's office, Consulting Room, Surgery, Medical Records office, X-ray department and Physiotherapy department. Our five permanent Ambulance Rooms are manned 24 hours per day and one temporary Ambulance Room from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The total number of cases treated during 1954 was 41,000.

The end of 1954 saw all plans complete for Welfare and Amenity facilities for the men who will man the new plant. A number of the buildings planned are now under construction."

In the scholastic sphere, the following information has been kindly supplied by Mr. R.J. Williams, The Divisional Executive Officer of the Glamorgan County Council.

(1) Total average number of pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the Borough during 1954 - 7677

(11) Total average number of pupils receiving school meals during 1954 - 1432

(111) Total average number of pupils receiving milk in school during 1954 - 5503

Miss Beti Jones, Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer has kindly submitted the following details.

(i) Number of Children admitted to Children's Homes in 1954 ... ... 20 +
(ii) Number of Children admitted to Approved Schools in 1954 6

+ Of these Children 7 were returned to their parents before the end of 1954.

I am informed by Mr. P.H.R. Thomas, LL.B., the Clerk to the Borough Justices that 142 children between the ages of eight and seventeen years were brought before the Juvenile Court during 1954.

11 persons were admitted to County Hostels from Port Talbot during 1954. An old Welsh Proverb states "Dyfal donc a dyr y garreg." Translated, its meaning implies that by perseverance and repetition the desired end can be reached. I therefore repeat here remarks that appeared in my Annual Report for 1953 which are self-explanatory. It is felt a matter of regret that no County Hostel exists in the Borough. Old people who find it necessary to take advantage of Part 111 accommodation find themselves uprooted from their area and circle of acquaintances and though well catered and cared for are, at a time in their lives when new faces, new areas and strange surroundings are less attractive, moved away into these very circumstances.

VITAL STATISTICS.

1. POPULATION.

The Population of the Borough at mid-year 1954 was 45,850 as compared with 45,170 in 1953 and 44,190 in 1952.

2. BIRTHS.

Of 834 live births, 413 were males and 421 were females. There were 22 still-births. 18 of the live births were illegitimate. The Birth rate was 18.19 per 1,000 population. This compares quite favourably with the Rate for the previous year. The Birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.2.

The following table is of interest:-

Number of live births at home in the borough	: 285
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Neath General Hospital	: 460
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Bridgend General Hospital and other hospitals (excluding Neath)	: 89

66% of all live births occurred in hospital.

This shows a slight increase on last year's percentage (64%). Local surveys indicate a rise in pregnancies and births in the new housing estates, particularly in Sandfields with a corresponding drop in the older parts of the Borough. This of course is to be expected as there is a proportionately higher percentage of fertile population rehoused in such areas. Couple with this the fact that there is an increasing number of pregnancies in homes less overcrowded and better equipped with water and improved sanitary amenities and we find more domiciliary confinements. The pattern of reasons given in applications for hospital confinements is changing. Lack of amenities and overcrowding, dampness and poor home conditions appear less frequently, lack of relatives, friends and neighbours willing to care and assist in the home during confinement becoming increasingly apparent. To a measure the provision of home help under a scheme operated by the County Council meets this requirement.

3. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during 1954 was 457, comprising 246 males and 211 females. The death rate per 1,000 population was 9.97 and this may be compared with the rate for the past eight years.

1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.
11.09	9.57	12.39	11.7	11.3	10.5	12.5	11.9

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1954 was 11.3.

The main causes of death during 1954 continued to be diseases of the heart and blood vessels, cancer, bronchitis and pneumonia.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

19 infants, under one year of age, died during 1954. An analysis of the causes of death is contained in Table 2 at the end of the report. The infant mortality rate was 22.78. The figure for the whole of England and Wales was 25.5.

It has always been recognised that the first year of life carries with it many hazards and that once past his first birthday a child's chances of survival increase many fold.

With the general decline in the number of births per family, the survival of the infants becomes increasingly vital to the needs and economy of the country and the nation.

During 1954, 19 infants failed to survive until their first birthday. Whilst it cannot be denied that each death brings distress and pain to the individual homes concerned, correlation with the live birth figure of 834 shows an infant mortality of 22.78 (per Thousand). It is felt that advancement in medical science, the technique of the care of mothers before and during labour and the vigilance and care over infants following birth by doctors, midwives, nurses and health visitors in the home, clinic and surgery have contributed in no small measures to this success.

The Port Talbot figures of 22.78 compares favourably with that of 25.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

For comparison purposes I append below the infant mortality records during the past ten years.

1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.
22.78	19.4	29.06	30.6	33.8	54.8	35.	40.	43.	63.

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during 1954. A mother, aged 27, died at home from Pulmonary Embolism due to Pelvic Vein Thrombosis (Post Partum).

The detailed statistical tables, required by the Welsh Board of Health, are given at the end of the report. In this section, a general explanatory review of the main statistics is given.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

All bacteriological and chemical analyses in relation to water, milk, ice-cream and other food stuffs are carried out for your Authority at the City and County Laboratory in Cardiff.

(b) Hospitals.

Two Hospitals, both governed by the Mid-Glamorgan Management Committee of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board, one general and one Isolation, dealing mainly with Infectious fever cases are situated within the Borough boundary.

Maternity cases are treated at the Maternity wing of the Neath General Hospital, some thirty-five beds per month being allocated to the Divisional Medical Officer for the borough area for the hospital confinement of borough maternity cases; we also have the use of ten beds at Bridgend Hospital.

The Chest Clinic continued to operate at Neath during 1954. Though actually outside the period reviewed in this report it is felt that mention should be made of the opening by Mr. H.H. Davies, M.C., Chairman of the Welsh Board of Health, on the 24th. February 1955 of the long awaited Out-Patients Department at the Port Talbot General Hospital.

This attractive and well planned building provides accommodation in the form of spacious, well lit and comfortably furnished waiting rooms, three consulting rooms and five examination rooms, a combined E.N.T. and Ophthalmic room with special cubicles, a spacious office and filing space for current records.

An appointments system is operated on a proper basis together with the registration of patients and the unit system of records is to be introduced.

The Chest Clinic has a waiting room similar to that for the Out Patients Department, a consulting room, two examination rooms with a screening unit common to both and a room for Minor Surgical work. There is a sister's office which is common to the whole building and a large records department.

A buffet is provided off the waiting room to serve both departments.

(c) Ambulance Service.

This is operated by the Glamorgan County Council, the Control Centre for this area being situated at Neath, outside the Borough. All calls for this service have to be made to the Neath Control which then arranges for the Ambulance cars stationed locally to attend. The Ambulance Sub-station at Bryn has now been closed, the Ambulance cars being now held at the Park House Sub-station in Port Talbot.

(d) Domiciliary Nursing, Midwifery and Home Help Services.

These Glamorgan County Services are administered locally at the Divisional Health Office, Park House, Theodore Road, Port Talbot.

(e) Welfare Services.

The welfare services administered by the Glamorgan County Council whose director Mr. J.H. Bargh is located at the County Hall, Cardiff, has a local office at 8, Wind Street, Neath, and whose area clerk Mr. W.H. Powell is responsible for the administration of the service in the Borough of Port Talbot.

The work of this department covers the provision of Part 111 Hostel Accommodation, the care of property etc., of patients in hospitals who have no relatives able to do it and the visiting and welfare of blind and handicapped persons. There is no Part 111 Accommodation in the Borough, the nearest being at Porthcawl.

HOUSING.

1. Total number of houses completed during 1954 :

(a)	Temporary	Nil
(b)	Permanent	697

With State Assistance under Housing Act :

(i)	By local authority	642
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	Nil

This is a creditable number of houses and provides a substantial number of new houses within the district for those who, as may be seen in the analysis of allocations below, have demonstrably showed the need for re-housing.

2. New houses let by the Corporation during 1954 642

(a)	to tuberculous families	37
(b)	to families from condemned houses ...	36
(c)	to families from squatters camps ...	4
(d)	to families from overcrowded houses ...	63
(e)	to key workers	143

These figures do not of course add up to the total number of houses allocated but show that the health and environmental conditions of families have been recognised as factors for re-housing consideration.

At present tuberculosis - notified and on the tuberculosis register - alone qualifies for re-housing points. It is felt that consideration could be given to many allied conditions that reduce the general health and constitute very real risks to the health and well-being of the population.

It is quite possible for many chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis and pneumoconiosis cases to have more serious and undiagnosed underlying conditions, adding their problems to the prejudice of the health of young families, many with quite young children in apartment life.

The numbers rehoused from condemned property and from squatters camps has fallen considerably. This is disappointing. Whilst families remain in condemned houses and in squatters camps, I am of the opinion that no effort should be spared to alleviate one and eradicate the other.

3. Number of Applicants for Council Houses on the waiting list:

December 31st. 1954	1540
December 31st. 1953	1650
December 31st. 1952	1340
December 31st. 1951	1732
December 31st. 1950	1940
December 31st. 1949	1500

4. Inspection of Dwelling Houses, etc.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 584

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 3398

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1929 52

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 64

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... 47

(4) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 504

(5) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:- number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 315

(6) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ...

(a) By owners 0

(b) By local authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 189

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... ...

(a) By owners 178

(b) By local authorities in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	16
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of order	
(a) Demolition Orders	35 +
(b) Clearance Orders	3
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

+ Undertakings to close 25 houses were accepted but upon vacation these 25 houses were demolished.

(6) Housing Act, 1936 - Part 1V - OVERCROWDING.

As has been recorded in previous reports only by conducting a further comprehensive survey along the lines of that carried out on the introduction of the Act can a true and accurate reflection of the overcrowding position be ascertained.

Two forms of overcrowding can and do occur. True statutory overcrowding where more than the permitted number occupy a dwelling and the relative overcrowding of families in apartment life. Here families of varying numbers find themselves crowded into one, two or more rooms, frequently in quite large houses, the rest of the accommodation being occupied by perhaps as few as one person.

Such overcrowding calls for relief and is reflected in the statistics relating to families rehoused by the Local Authorities - a very high percentage of families in these conditions being relieved by the local authority.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During 1954 the number of houses supplied from Standpipes was reduced to 45. 14,030 houses now being supplied direct from the public mains.

An increase of 1.8 gallons from 27 to 28.8 in the average daily consumption per person was noted during the year.

268 samples of water were taken for Bacteriological examination of which 16 were found to be unsatisfactory and of these 11 were from unchlorinated supplies. The attention of the Borough Engineer was drawn to these on receipt. Further sampling were found to be satisfactory.

REPORT ON PORT TALBOT WATERWORKS UNDERTAKING AT END OF 1954.

1. Historical. The Borough Extension Order 1921 (Aberavon and Neath Extension) Act 1921, combined the ancient Borough of Aberavon with Margam Urban District Council and the parishes of Baglan Lower and Michaelstone Lower of Neath Rural District Council (more particularly from the purpose of this report the village of Cwmavon).

2. Resources.
   (a) Major Supplies.

(i) Cwmwernderi Impounding Reservoir. (1) on attached drawing.

Situation - Cwmwernderi. Capacity - 50 million gallons. Overflow cill level 496 feet A.O.D. Depth 54 feet. Built 1901. Drainage area 540 acres. Maintainable yield - 300,000 gallons per day (Sir Alex Binnie's calculation 1933).

There is a 14" C.I. Main from valve tower to the Cwmwernderi intake referred to in 2(a) (ii) via a Larner Johnson float controlled valve. There is also a 6" C.I. Main connecting the Valve Tower to Cwmgwineu Reservoir referred to in 2(a) (iii) via a Larner Johnson float controlled valve. An alternative use has been found for this 6" main and it has recently been divided into two sections at point near Tynyfferm. The section "Tynyfferm to Cwmwernderi" is to be used to deliver the proposed emergency supply from the Ffrwdwyllt River (referred to in para. 2 (b) (vi) into the Reservoir.
The other portion is being used to convey the supply from Tynyfferm Borehole (referred to in para. 2(b) (v) into Cwmgwineu Reservoir.

(ii) Cwmwernderi Intake (2) on attached drawing.

Situation - one mile below Cwmwernderi Reservoir. Level - 300 feet A.O.D. Area of gathering ground 230 acres. Maintainable yield - 190,000 gallons per day (Sir Alex Binnie's calculation 1933)

There is a 14" C.I. Main reduced to 12" a mile nearer Port Talbot, conveying water from the intake to the town supply system. The intake takes the whole of the D.W.F. of the stream at this point, augmented by water from Cwmwernderi reservoir referred to in (a) (i), via a float controlled valve.

(iii) Cwmgwineu Reservoir. Open brickwork tank (3) on attached drawing.

Situation - 100 yards below the confluence of Nant Cwm Cerdinen with Nant Cwm-y-garn. Capacity 138,000 gallons. Top water level - 220 feet A.O.D. Area of catchment ground - 500 acres. Maintainable yield 135,000 gallons per day (Sir Alex Binnie's calculation 1933). This reservoir is augmented from Cwmwernderi Reservoir referred to in (a) (i), by a float controlled valve.

(iv) Ynysygwas Impounding Reservoir (4) on attached drawing.

Situation - near Ynysygwas. Capacity - 6 million gallons. Overflow level 300.5 feet A.O.D. Depth 32 feet. Area of catchment ground - 230 acres. Maintainable yield - 95,000 gallons per day (Sir Alex Binnie's calculation 1933).

There is a 12" C.I. pipe from this Reservoir to the supply system. The reservoir is used as a service reservoir for the Ystradfellte supply to Aberavon referred to in (a) (v) and the Pwllygwlaw pump supply referred to in (a) (viii).

(v) Ystradfellte supply to Aberavon.
Agreement dated 1908 between Neath Rural District Council and the Aberavon Corporation. A supply of 220,000 gallons per day into Ynysygwas Reservoir referred to in (a) (iv). The supply is limited 1 Apr. to 30 Sept. in each year and the price is 6d. per 1,000 gallons (taken or not).

The supply may be fixed at half the above quantity if the Port Talbot Corporation so require. The maximum the pipe line 6" dia. will take is approximately 200,000 gallons per day.

(vi) Ystradfellte supply to Cwmavon.
Borough Extension Order 1921. The Neath Rural District Council will supply the water required by Cwmavon at 10 and 1/3rd pence per 1,000 gallons. The Neath Rural District Council may not supply more than 20 gallons per person per day unless they choose to do so. Quantity now taken 125,000 gallons per day. The water flows into the Cwmavon distribution system without the use of a service Reservoir.

(vii) Ystradfellte supply to Oakwood.

The Department has an arrangement with the Neath Rural District Council providing for the supply to the village of Oakwood of up to 10,000 gallons per day at 1/6d. per thousand gallons.

(viii) Pwllygwlaw Pump (5) on attached drawing.

Situation - Old Oakwood Colliery siding. Yield - 480,000 gallons per day. Source - old disused colliery workings.
This water is hard and contains iron and manganese,

the water is discharged into Ynysygwas reservoir, referred to in (a) (iv).

Average use of pump for past six years is 51 days per annum.

(b) Minor Supplies.

(i) Ty Newydd. (6) on attached drawing.

Maintainable yield approximately 30,000 gallons per day connected to Main distribution system. To be abandoned when adequate supplies are available.

(ii) Bryn Cwm Farteg Supply. (7) on attached drawing.

A good natural water supply to the village of Bryn, population approximately 1,000. The village cannot be connected with the Main distribution system.

(iii) Bryn Parc-y-Bryn Supply. (8) on attached drawing.

Augments the supply from (b)(ii).

(iv) Old Park Supply Margam. (13) on attached drawing.

Covered brick tank, capacity 880 gallons fed from a spring. Used to supply water to a small number of Farms and cottages at Water Street, Margam. This supply to be abandoned when sufficient development warrants the extension of the Main supply.

(v) Tynyffarm Borehole. (10) on attached drawing.

Situation - Tynyfferm, Goytre. 209' A.O.D.
Depth 450'-0" Yield - 100,000 gallons per day.

(vi) Proposed Ffrwdwyllt River Supply. (11) on attached drawing.

Situation of pump - Tynyfferm, Port Talbot. 205' A.O.D. Estimated yield - 500,000 gallons per day.

(vii) Proposed Cwm Phillip Supply. (12) on attached drawing.

Situation - near Margam Castle at 270' A.O.D.
Estimated yield - 350,000 gallons per day.

NOTE Supplies (vi) and (vii) to be used only under drought conditions. Availability of these sources subject to Compulsory Acquisition Order at present under consideration.

3. Consumption of Water.

(a) Subsidiary Systems

(i) Bryn. This supply is to a village with an estimated population of 1,000 persons. Provision should be made for an increase in population of 150 persons. This is a self contained system and had no effect on the Main Town supply.

(ii) Cwmavon. Estimated population 4,500 persons. Provision should be made for an increase of 1,000 persons during the next 10 years.

The 1921 Order provided for the anticipated requirement.

(b) Main Town Supply.

		Galls per day.
Estimated population 40,000		
Present consumption (metered)		2,100,000
Domestic requirements 40,000 persons @ 27.5 gallons per person per day.	1,100,000	
Present Trade consumption	900,000	2,000,000

Leakage 100,000 gallons of which may be reduced by intense waste detection.

4. (a)

		Galls per day.
Present Consumption from 3(b)	2,100,000	
Less anticipated waste reduction	100,000	
		2,000,000

(b) Present Maintainable Yield -

Cwmwernderi Reservoir	2(a)	(i)	300,000
-do- Intake	2(a)	(ii)	190,000
Cwmgwineu	2(a)	(iii)	135,000
Ynysygwas Reservoir	2(a)	(iv)	95,000
Ystradfellte	2(a)	(v)	200,000
Pwllygwlaw Pump	2(a)	(viii)	480,000
Ty Newydd	2(b)	(i)	30,000
Tynyfferm Borehole	2(b)	(v)	100,000
Ffrwdwyllt	2(b)	(vi)	500,000
Cwm Phillip	2(b)	(vii)	350,000
			2,380,000

NOTE:- Only if the proposed temporary additional supplies at Ffrwdwyllt and Cwm Phillip are brought into use will the Department have sufficient supplies under drought conditions to meet the current demand.

5. General.

(a) Metered Supplies.

The whole of the resources on the main supply are metered. Recording lifting gate type meters are installed on the Cwmwernderi 2(a) (i) and 2(a) (ii). Cwmgwineu 2(a) (iii) and Ynysygwas 2(a) (iv).

(b) Chlorination.

All the Department's sources of supply are chlorinated either by Gas or Chloros, using automatic or drip feed apparatus.

(c) Trade Supplies.

(i) The trade supplies amounted to an average of :-

464,000	gallons per day	1934	836,000	gallons per day	1944
551,000	" " "	1935	778,000	" " "	1945
598,000	" " "	1936	744,000	" " "	1946
598,000	" " "	1937	657,000	" " "	1947
495,000	" " "	1938	616,000	" " "	1948
540,000	" " "	1939	590,000	" " "	1949
595,000	" " "	1940	650,000	" " "	1950
666,000	" " "	1941	708,000	" " "	1951
808,000	" " "	1942	848,000	" " "	1952
858,000	" " "	1943	786,000	" " "	1953

(ii) The rates charged for heavy trade consumers are :-

STANDARD RATES	Per 1,000 gallon.	Min. Charge.
Up to and including 20,000 gallons.	2/6d.	7. 6.
Above - 20,000 and up to and inc. 30,000	2/4d.	£2. 10. 0.
" - 30,000 " " 40,000	2/2d.	£3. 10. 0.
" - 40,000 " " 50,000	2/-d.	£4. 6. 8.
" - 50,000 " " 75,000	1/10d.	£5. 0. 0.
" - 75,000 " " 100,000	1/8d.	£6. 17. 6.
" - 100,000 " " 250,000	1/6d.	£8. 6. 8.
" - 250,000 " " 500,000	1/4d.	£18.15. 0
" - 500,000 " " 1,000,000	1/2d.	£33. 6. 8.
" -1,000,000 " " 2,000,000	1/0d.	£58. 6. 8.
2,000,000 for each succeeding 1,000	9d.	

The major consumers are the Steel Company of Wales and British Railways who consume an average of 650,000 gallons per day.

Special Rates:

G.W.R. present consumption (335,000 gallons per day).
for 27,575,000 gallons per half year 6d. per 1,000 galls.
All over 27,575,000 gallons " " 9d. " " "
Steel Company of Wales (325,000 gallons per day) 9d. per 1,000 gallons, (domestic allowance 4 gallons per employee per day).

(d) Waste Detection.

For purposes of Waste detection on the Main supplies the Undertaking is divided into four zones.

(i) Cwmavon - Ystradfellte supply.
Deacon waste water meter keeps constant record of rates of flow throughout area.

(ii) Aberavon Area - from Briton Ferry to the River Afan.
Recording meter at Ynysygwas Reservoir is used during night tests, in conjunction with waste water recording meters installed on district i.e. Dock Road and Velindre.

(iii) Port Talbot Area - from the River Afan to the River Ffrwdwyllt. Cwmwernderi recording meter is used during night tests.

(iv) Margam area - River Ffrwdwyllt to the limit of supply at Groes. Recording meter at Cwmgwineu.

METHOD

The tests are carried out during the early morning of Sundays - all trade consumers are cut off at the meters. All link valves are previously closed. The main valves are then closed to a set drill and later opened. The recording charts denote the night consumption in the zones and sub-zones under test. A portable 2" meter with hose connections is used in the smaller areas of the zones to locate the minor leaks. House to house inspection is maintained and the men trained to locate invisible leaks. The night line of all the supplies is noted daily so that major leaks may be followed up without delay.

(e) Flexibility of Supply Zones.

The whole of the main supplies and zones are interconnected. The following is the normal method of supply.

(i) Cwmavon is independent from the Main Town supply but in an emergency Cwmavon water may flow into the Ynysygwas reservoir and vice-versa.

(ii) The area between the Ffrwdwyllt and Groes is supplied from Cwmgwineu.

(iii) The Low parts of Aberavon and area between the Rivers Afan and Ffrwdwyllt is supplied from Cwmwernderi. A portion of this area is when necessary, transferred to (ii) above so as to make the load equal to the varying inflow. This area is also supplied with water from Ynysygwas through a Larner Johnson automatic pressure reducing valve, so that by Valve settings the draw off from the three main supplies is regulated.

(iv) Cwmavon road - Velindre, Baglan and Penycae are always supplied from Ynysygwas augmented at Baglan with a supply from Ty Newydd during drought periods.

6. Anticipated Line of Development.

The difficulties which attend the constantly increasing demand on the Authority's water resources were originally reported to Council in 1947 and the information was given to the Ministry of Health's Inspector, Mr. A.N. Gardiner and the problem was featured in his Survey published in 1949.

Meanwhile, as a temporary relief, the Tynyfferm Borehole had commenced to by sunk in 1949 but the delay in bringing this into production meant that when it was eventually brought into use in 1952 the demand had increased in the intervening period by more than was obtained from this source.

A special report was prepared for Council again in July 1951 detailing the rapidly worsening situation and this on resolution of Council was sent to the Welsh Office. This report contained the proposal that a further Dam should be erected in the Cwmwernderi Valley in accordance with the preliminary scheme prepared by the Consultant's to the Authority in 1932.

Subsequently meetings were called by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government between this Authority, Swansea, Neath Borough Council, and Neath R.D.C. to consider Port Talbot's proposed Reservoir Scheme in relation to the requirements of other neighbouring authorities and the available resources of Swansea.

Out of these protracted deliberations emerged the Joint Committee comprising Neath B.C., Neath R.D.C., and Port Talbot B.C., Swansea having dropped out because they said they had not sufficient supplies to meet the total requirements of other Authorities.

The Authorities concerned authorised employment of Messrs. Binnie, Deacon and Gourley in Nov. 1953 to report on "the means of supplying water to Neath Borough, Port Talbot Borough and Neath R.D.C., in adequate quantities on a long term basis, and whether the supply should be on an individual or collective basis or a combination of both and to give an estimate of the probable cost involved."

A special report was prepared and submitted to the Consultant's by the Department in Dec. 1953 and after several joint meetings, the Consultant's indicated unofficially that they would support the erection of a further Dam for Port Talbot with Neath Borough to be supplied from Swansea and Neath R.D.C. Before they could present their report, however, the Department was informed by the Coal Board, subsequent to our request to them for clearance on our scheme to put a small balancing reservoir in at Gwytre, for use with our proposed Filtration Plant, that they intended undermining the whole area involved including the ground in and around our proposed and existing reservoirs. At a subsequent meeting and since in writing, they have confirmed their intention and we immediately informed the Consultant's of the changed circumstances.

In the Consultant's report presented in April 1954 they recommended :-

(a) the construction of a Dam on the Afon Llia;

(b) the eventual construction of joint treatment works for the Llia and Ystradfellte supplies;

(c) the construction of a new trunk pipeline from the Llia dam interconnected with the old trunk line from the Ystradfellte dam downstream from the proposed treatment works;

(d) that a joint authority should be formed for carrying out the above works.

At a joint meeting called to consider Consultant's report, representatives of the Rhondda U.D.C., were present at the invitation of the Ministry and it was put to the Committee that the Rhondda were in imminent danger of losing their supplies due to the activities of the National Coal Board and were asking permission to join in the scheme.

The Rhondda U.D.C. were invited to join in asking the Consultant's for a fresh report with new terms of reference to include the Rhondda U.D.C.'s requirement of 2,500,000 gallons per day.

The Consultant's revised report is based on the assumption that the Authority will lose all the supplies detailed in para. 4(b) except Pwllyglaw and Ynysygwas, totalling 575,000. Not to be considered in relation to our long term requirement are the proposed temporary supplies from Cwm Phillip and the Ffrwdwyllt River.

The conclusions reached in the revised report submitted by the Consultant's are summarised as follows:-

(A) Application be made to Parliament for the reduction of compensation water from the Ystradfellte reservoir to 1/5th. of the gross yield;

(B) Catchwaters be constructed leading water into the Ystradfellte reservoir;

(C) A dam be constructed on the Llia;

(D) Catchwaters be constructed taking water from the Neath headwaters into the proposed Llia reservoir;

(E) A treatment works be constructed to treat the whole of the output of the Ystradfellte and Llia reservoirs with the exception of the raw water supply to Rhondda;

(F) Certain trunk mains be laid as suggested in the body of the Report;

(G) A Bulk Supply Board be formed for the purpose of carrying out the above works and taking over control of the Ystradfellte and Llia impounding schemes, the new treatment works, and certain bulk supply mains;

(H) Site surveys be undertaken to enable more accurate estimates of yields and costs to be obtained.

The financial implications of the report, if all parties subscribe in the manner envisaged by the Consultant, but using a number of assumptions, would be as follows:-

(a)	Total annual cost of the scheme including operating costs		£80,000
(b)	Present revenue from sales, plus 100% increase in charges ...	£22,000	
(c)	Assumed domestic water rate of 2/6d. in the £. ...	25,000	
(d)	Assumed rate in aid of 2/1½d. in the £. ...	33,000	
		£80,000	£80,000

The present sum included in the general rate is 1/4½d. in the £. and the net affect on domestic consumers would amount to an increase of approximately 3/3d. in the £. making a total of 4/7½d.

The Department's ultimate requirement of 2,700,000 gallons is made up as follows:-

1.	From Neath R.D.C.	(a) Cwmavon ...	140,000	
	*	(b) Aberavon...	111,000	
		(c) Oakwood ...	8,000	259,000

* The Consultant has based this figure on the 222,000 gallons we draw by agreement between 1 Apr. and 30 Sept. annually.

2.	From Ynysygwas	95,000	
	" Pwllygwlaw	480,000	575,000
			834,000
3.	Deficiency		1,866,000
4.	Requirement by 1984.		£2,700,000

The maximum reservation allocated to Port Talbot from the new reservoir is 2,015,000, so that with our existing supplies, and supplies from Neath R.D.C. we would have available a quantity slightly in excess of the estimated total consumption of 2,700,000 by 1984.

Upon completion of the Scheme it would be advantageous to the Department to temporarily abandon all untreated supplies, i.e., Pwllygwlaw and Ynysygwas until such time as the growth of demand made it necessary for their reintroduction.

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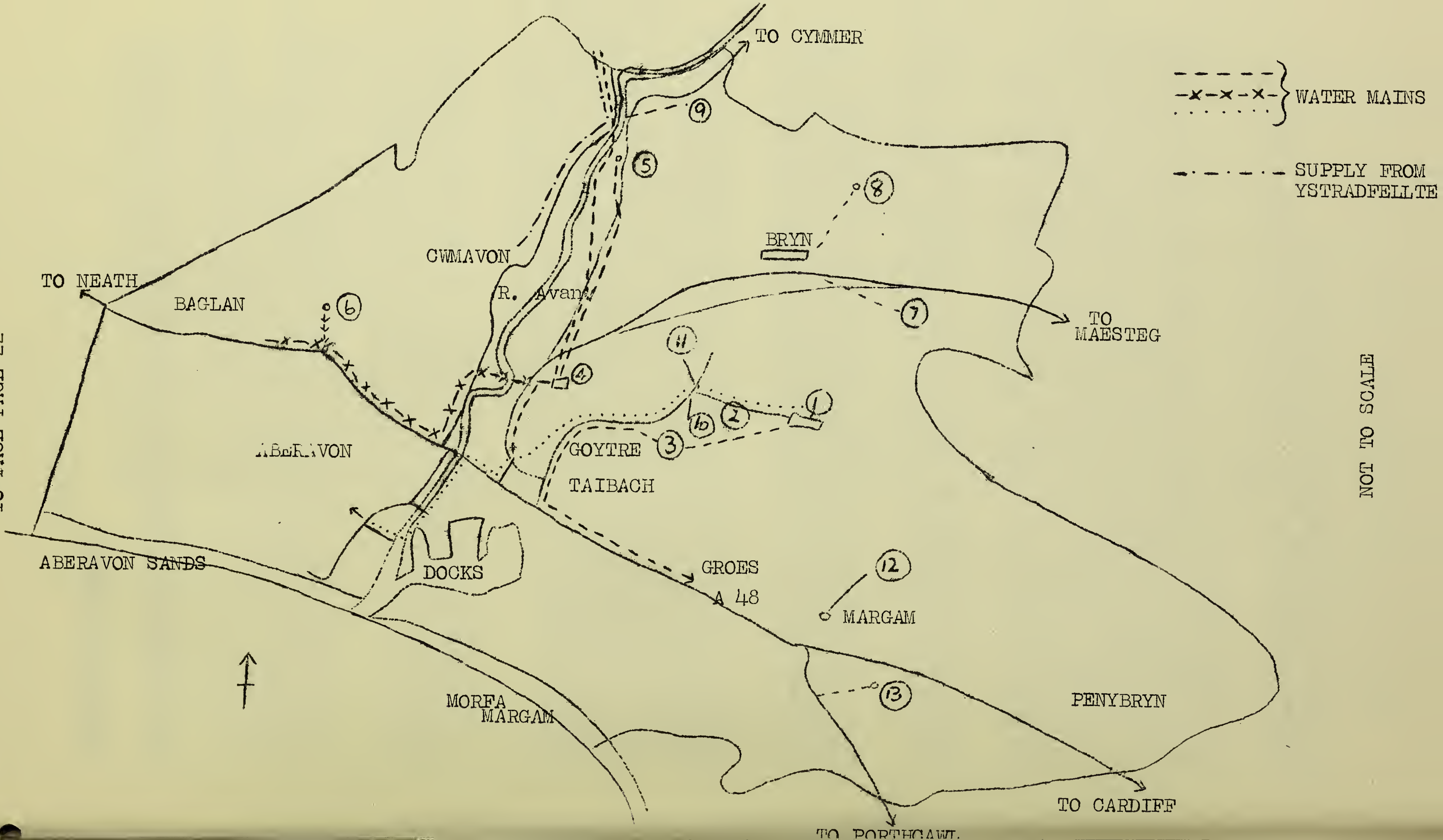

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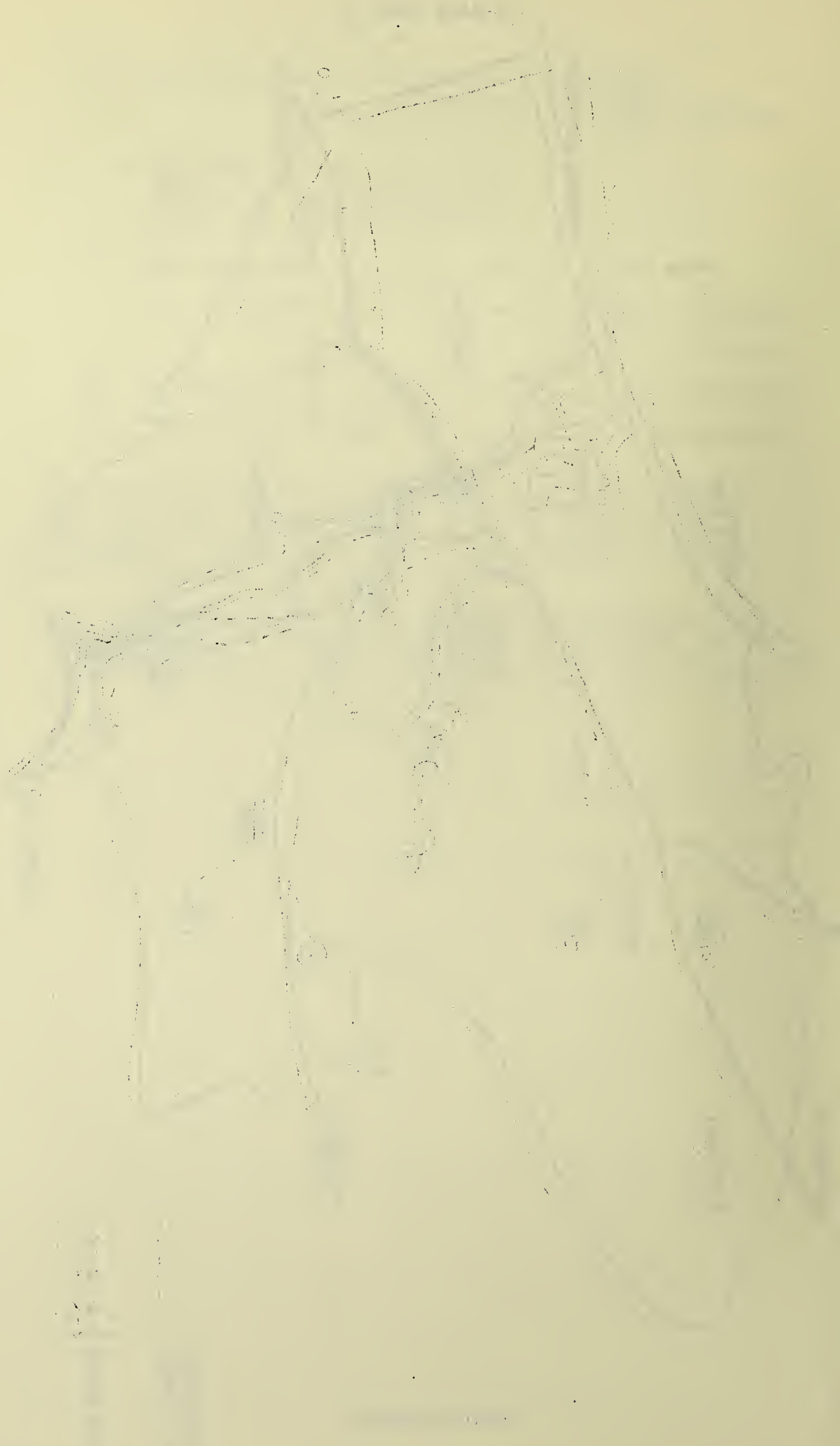

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The disposal of household and certain trade refuse in an urbanised community presents difficulties which increase as that community expands.

The primitive tipping or dumping at the bottom of the garden becomes impracticable and it becomes necessary to remove the refuse and garbage for disposal elsewhere. For this purpose local authorities provide a service ranging from the horse and cart disposal in the smaller communities to well appointed fleets of motor refuse vehicles in the larger and more progressive communities.

Collection varies according to the vehicles and staff available relative to the area served. As garbage is never pleasant or healthy when left to accumulate - especially in hot weather - collection at least once weekly is to be advocated; up to thrice weekly or even daily collections being carried out by some Authorities.

In summer and also during mild, warm and sunny weather uncovered wet garbage and refuse forms ideal breeding ground for flies and similar pests. The multitudinous forms of refuse receptacles met down any backlane, kicked over, explored at random by dogs and cats, and placed out in the main streets (often overnight) for emptying by the refuse men range from cardboard boxes that fall apart when wet, old buckets with broken leaking bottoms, old paint drums, even old tin-baths, to properly constructed refuse bins with close fitting lids, difficult of access to dogs and cats and a protection to the garbage within against the breeding entry of disease carrying flies.

Disposal can be by dumping well away from the community, by controlled tipping and proper and immediate coverage by inert substances such as earth, sand or shale when this has to be done near to residential communities or by incineration in properly constructed incinerators.

Disposal by tipping commends itself inasmuch that frequently useless and waterlogged marshground can be converted into delightful parks and playing fields and, in Baglan your Authority is working towards this end.

In an endeavour to keep the cost of such a project down to the minimum the danger to health and the creation of a nuisance, even of a statutory nuisance, must not be lost sight of. If coverage does not proceed adequately and - of vital importance - at the same time as tipping, a nuisance must arise. Where garbage that has lain exposed in back yards and backlanes for anything up to a week arrives at the refuse tip it is already infested with flies. It is alive with the grubs, larvae and eggs of flies, that are bound, in the warmth of decomposition, to hatch out and, unless the tip is covered, these breed and proliferate and fly off carried by the wind to the nearest houses.

Flies carry diseases such as gastro-entiritis, salmonella, food poisoning, and other enteric fevers. It has not been clearly established that flies have no part in the transmission of poliomyelitis.

This subject received full consideration by Council and it was decided to introduce a regulation form of dustbin for the reception and housing of household refuse prior to collection and on the 27th. October the following recommendation was confirmed.

"Recommended that on the expiration of six months from the date of confirmation of this recommendation, Council serve notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owners or occupiers of buildings within the District requiring them to provide such number of covered Dust Bins for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the Council may provide.

Further recommended that notice of this Resolution be given immediately to all householders by means of press notices, posters or other means."

This progressive attitude to an "accumulating" problem will serve three purposes.

1. The provision of covered receptacles, if properly used, will reduce the dangers of fly-borne infections and thus assist in raising the public health standards of the District.

2. By standardisation of the receptacles with fitted lids and handles, the refuse remains relatively dry and when collected is easier of handling by the staff responsible for collection and disposal.

and 3. The refuse, not having been exposed to the same extent as if left uncovered, is relatively less offensive and infected with fly larvae etc., to a lesser degree, thus arriving at the tip in better condition. This will improve the lot of the tip staff and minimise danger to health and nuisance at the tip sites.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Work on the reconstruction of the joint outfall sewer has progressed satisfactorily during the year. Its completion will serve two purposes. An improved run-off will ensure efficient disposal of sewage out at sea and minimise the dangers of flooding during heavy rainfall in the lowlying areas in Taibach.

HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

Certain work under the Factories Act, 1937 and Regulations issued under the Act is carried out by your officers.

The statutory requirements are included below.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	239	225	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	Referred By H.M. Insp.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	-	2	-	3	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	2	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	2	-	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8.	11	-	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	27	29	-	1	-
TOTAL	39	47	-	9	-

3. There are no outworkers in this borough.

HYGIENE OF FOOD.

During the year under review the constant vigilance of the officers of the Public Health Department was maintained. With the gradual relaxation of the war-time austerity it has become increasingly noticeable that there is an increasing enlightenment of the vast majority of the population. There is an increasing awareness of the vital importance of high standards of hygiene in all who handle foodstuffs in wholesale, retail establishments and in the various canteens - restaurants and cafeterias throughout the Borough.

A duty which should be recognised as of prime importance is the inspection of meat. This is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectorate who work long and arduous hours on a rota basis at the Public Abattoir. I have to record my appreciation of the careful and enthusiastic way they have shouldered this heavy responsibility. I append below in summarised form the work carried out during 1954.

1. MEAT INSPECTION AT PORT TALBOT ABATTOIR DURING 1954.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2590	525	2421	32154	6807
Number inspected	2590	525	2421	32154	6807
Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)					
(i) Whole carcases condemned	1	10	11	67	6
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1400	350	126	14005	3419
(iii) Percentage of all animals infected with disease other than tuberculosis	53.1	68.57	5.66	43.76	50.3
TUBERCULOSIS.					
(i) Whole carcases condemned	4	10	2	-	1
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	116	38	-	-	357
(iii) Percentage of all animals found to have signs of tuberculosis	4.63	9.14	0.08	-	5.26

There still continues to be a relatively high incidence of tuberculosis in slaughtered cows.

2. MILK.

As has been indicated above, whilst the high incidence of tuberculosis in slaughtered cows continues, it must be agreed that only heat treated milk can be acceptable as safe and free from germ contamination. Tuberculin tested herds give milk of a high degree of purity. The added precaution of pasteurisation followed by careful and efficient bottling and sealing provides a highly hygienic and satisfactory milk for human consumption.

Regular inspections of milk premises and sampling is carried out annually by your inspectorate and details of the work carried out has been compiled by Mr. Morgan and is appended. The 26 milk purveyors licenced by your authority are also classified under their respective designations:

Pasteurised Milk	(a) Dealer's Licences	23
	(b) Supplementary Licences	3
Sterilised Milk	(a) Dealer's Licences	14
	(b) Supplementary Licences	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	(a) Dealer's Licences	22
	(b) Supplementary Licences	2

Milk Samples submitted for examination.

	No. Submitted	No. Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Adulteration	104	104	Nil
Bacterial Purity	69	62	7
Presence of Tubercle Bacilli	29	29	Nil

3. Other Foods.

Of 136 samples of other foods taken for examination 132 were found to be of the required standard, 4 only failing to reach the standard.

4. Food Poisoning.

There were 11 cases of food poisoning in 1954. This is reported in detail below.

5. Public Analyst.

The Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 was D. Evan Jones, Esq., Cardiff.

6. Sanitary Provision of Food Premises, etc.

The Model Food Byelaws adopted by the Council have played an important part in raising the standards of Food Premises. This coupled with the advisory work carried out by the Inspectorate and by increased competition and eased restrictions serve to improve the Sanitary provision in the borough food premises.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria (proved)	Infantile Paralysis	Measles	New cases of Tuberculosis. Pulm.	Non-Pulm.
Margam West	10	-	-	-	8	3
Margam Central	4	-	-	1	7	2
Margam North	-	-	-	-	2	-
Aberavon South	13	-	-	3	16	2
Aberavon North	3	-	-	2	12	1
Cwmavon	1	-	-	5	8	-
TOTALS						
1954	31	Nil	Nil	11	53	8
1953	82	Nil	1	624	47	5
1952	63	Nil	Nil	232	47	5
1951	42	Nil	Nil	422	35	11
1950	92	1	2	387	58	16
1949	116	4	9	386	64	21
1948	134	5	3	36	76	14
1947	44	45	7	833	58	9
1946	62	55	0	-	61	18
1945	104	86	0	No Records	93	13
1944	137	201	0		99	7
1943	94	154	1		78	22
1942	54	46	0		71	20
1941	40	64	1		66	28
1940	52	84	0		58	18
1939	59	143	1		53	14

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during 1954.

Paratyphoid B.

There were 19 cases of Paratyphoid notified in 1954.

Paratyphoid B is an infectious fever that falls into the enteric group and is allied to conditions such as food poisoning. The disease is caused by the ingestion of food contaminated by the paratyphoid B organism, the food usually becoming contaminated as a result of handling by an excretor of the germ - either someone suffering from the disease in a silent form or a carrier excreting the germ intermittently.

Such a person working in a premises where certain foodstuff are prepared for distribution to the public can innocently infect that food and if the infection is sufficiently heavy can cause a wide spread and scattered outbreak of the disease.

During the last two or three days of February it became manifest that there was an outbreak of Paratyphoid B within the Borough. The outbreak extended into the first week of March and is outlined in detail below.

The outbreak was of insidious onset. Very few intestinal symptoms that would give a guide to the condition presented themselves, the disease starting with headache, giddiness and other symptoms suggestive of influenza, the sickness and diarrhoea not coming on until several days later.

As soon as notification was received thorough investigations were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself at the patient's homes, of relatives and where appropriate enquiries made of the patients themselves in hospital. Complete co-operation was received from the distressed families and in all but one case a common food factor was discovered.

Close liaison with the Welsh Board of Health was maintained and the origin of the infection, occurring outside the borough boundary was traced. Prompt action at source was thus possible. Close contacts of the sick persons was maintained over the appropriate time and I was pleased to be able to report to Council that no secondary cases occurred.

Food Poisoning.

The danger to health, loss of working man hours, particularly in these days where so many meals are taken in communal feeding centres, such as cafés, restaurants and works canteens, caused by food poisoning has received progressively increased attention by those responsible for the public health during recent years.

An explosive outbreak of food poisoning amongst persons who had partaken of a meal in a works canteen served to underline the importance of eternal vigilance and sustained care in the preparation, handling and distribution of food.

Over a period of approximately two hours and approximately two hours after partaking of a meal at a certain works canteen, eleven men complained of nausea sickness, abdominal pain and diarrhoea of varying severity, the condition subsiding in all in from eight to twelve hours.

Careful investigations and questioning of the victims focussed attention on a mess-room attached to a men's hostel some distance away from the central kitchen where meals were prepared and cooked. One of the victims lived outside and worked in the hostel partaking only of lunch at the mess-room.

The meal had consisted of a full dinner of meat, vegetables, potatoes and gravy, followed by a choice of sweet. The histories given by the men ruled out the sweet and as meat from the same joint was served simultaneously in another mess-room where there were no casualities this could also be ruled out. This suggested that the vegetables or the gravy should be regarded with suspicion.

Food Poisoning. (Continued)

Unfortunately no samples of the food were available as all residue following the meal had been disposed of. Both vegetables and gravy had been prepared in bulk at the central kitchen and, like the meat, had been served in other canteens also.

As the interval between partaking the meal and the onset of symptoms was very short, it suggested poisoning by toxin rather than bacterial poisoning. The investigations were therefore directed towards ascertaining how freshly prepared food could become inoculated with sufficient toxin to produce symptoms of poisoning. These revealed the following practice.

All food was prepared fresh daily at the central kitchen. Food to be consumed at mess-rooms away from the central kitchen was packed into heated containers and delivered to the mess-rooms shortly before the meals were due to be eaten being kept warm on hot plates until served.

When empty containers then received a rinse at the mess-room servery prior to being returned to the central kitchen. On being returned to the kitchen, they were further washed and passed through a steam steriliser, allowed to dry and were then heated to receive the food for the next meal. In theory it thus seemed impossible for the containers to harbour germ laden food long enough to build up enough toxin to produce symptoms.

Critical examination of the sterilisation process, the volume of the sterilizer and the amount of equipment to be sterilised brought to light the fact that it was possible only to sterilise a proportion of the container's daily. Further probing showed that it was possible for a container to miss the sterilisation process indefinitely and as many of the containers were old and had joints and crevices difficult to clean efficiently it became obvious that infection and the build up of toxin could well occur, the warm atmosphere of the kitchen providing a suitable temperature for rapid proliferation. Such a container, warmed and filled with gravy and then kept hot for half to one hour could ensure sufficient dispersal of toxin to produce sickness in those partaking of the gravy.

The attention of the management was immediately drawn to the condition of the containers and the inadequacy of the sterilisation process and technique and steps were taken to correct all defects found. No further cases of food poisoning have occurred at this plant.

I would like to add that during the whole of my investigations I was given every possible assistance by all concerned and my questions answered with a candour that proved the anxiety of the catering staff to ensure a service free from any repetitions of such an outbreak.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 61 new cases of tuberculosis were notified and are classified as follows:-

Sex.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	34	3
Females	19	5

These cases were distributed by wards as follows:-

Ward.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Margam West	8	3
Margam Central	7	2
Margam North	2	-
Aberavon South	16	2
Aberavon North	12	1
Cwmavon	8	-

Table 4, included at the end of this section of the report, includes the age distribution of the new cases.

The actual incidence of Tuberculosis at the end of 1954 is included in the following chart in comparison with the incidence at the beginning of the year.

Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register at Commencement of year.

Sex.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	166	42
Females	174	41

Total - 423

Incidence per 1000 population = 9.36.

Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register at End of Year.

Sex.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	191	40
Females	190	45

Total - 466

Incidence per 1000 population = 10.16.

TUBERCULOSIS - DESTRUCTION OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, etc.

A resident of Taibach suffering from gross Pulmonary Tuberculosis died in hospital during the month of January and was buried at the expense of the Hospital Authorities. The deceased's assets were limited to a few articles of furniture and odd clothing. In the ordinary way such furniture and clothing would be sold by the burying authority to defray the expenses of burial. In view of the serious danger to the public health that would follow any such action in this case I issued in accordance with Section 167 of the Public Health Act, 1936 a Certificate for destruction of the above articles.

The work and subsequent disinfection of the premises was carried out by your Sanitary Inspectorate.

TABLE 1.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH FOR 1954.

These statistics have been confirmed by the Registrar General.

Live Births:-	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	816	403	413
Illegitimate	18	10	8

Birth-rate per 1000 population - 18.19
Birth-rate for England and Wales - 15.2

Still Births:-	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	22	11	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still-birth rate per 1000 total births - 25.7
Still-birth rate for England and Wales - 24.0

Deaths:-	Total.	Males.	Females.
	457	246	211

Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - 9.97
Death-rate for England and Wales - 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There was one death from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	22.78
Legitimate infants per 1000 live legitimate births ..	23.28
Illegitimate infants per 1000 live illegitimate births	0.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)......................	80
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	3

TABLE 2.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS DURING 1954.

NEONATAL DEATHS : 16 NEONATAL DEATH RATE : 19.18 per 1000 Live Births.

	1st. 24 hours of life.	One day - one month
Prematurity	3	4
Hydrocephalus	1	1
Neonatal asphyxia, Cerebral haemorrhage. Prolonged labour. Patent intraventricular septum of heart	1	-
Congenital heart disease	1	-
Microcephalus	-	1
Erythroblastosis foetalis. Rh incompatability	-	1
Pulmonary atelectasis. Multiple congenital abnormalities	-	1
Aspiration pneumonia	-	1
Cerebral haemorrhage. Birth trauma. Haemorrhage diathesis .	-	1

DEATHS DURING ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR OF AGE : 3

Broncho Pneumonia	2
Congenital malformation Cross Spina Bifida	1

TABLE 3.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases during 1954:-

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years	1	-	1	-
Over 5 years and under 10 years	-	-	-	-
Over 10 years and under 15 years	1	-	-	1
Over 15 years and under 20 years	4	4	-	-
Over 20 years and under 25 years	3	2	-	-
Over 25 years and under 35 years	7	8	-	1
Over 35 years and under 45 years	5	2	-	2
Over 45 years and under 55 years	6	2	1	-
Over 55 years and under 65 years	5	1	1	1
Over 65 years	2	-	-	-
Totals	34	19	3	5

TABLE 4.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1954.

As recorded by the Registrar General.

			Males.	Females.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	4	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	....	-	-
3.	Syphylitic disease	....	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	....	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	....	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	....	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	....	-	-
8.	Measles	....	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	2	1
10.	Cancer of stomach	....	7	19
11.	Cancer of lung	....	8	1
12.	Cancer of breast	....	-	7
13.	Cancer of uterus	....	-	1
14.	Other forms of cancer	....	16	20
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	....	1	-
16.	Diabetes	....	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	32	37
18.	Coronary disease, angina	....	35	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	....	6	8
20.	Other heart disease	....	28	38
21.	Other circulatory disease	....	16	9
22.	Influenza	....	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	....	11	6
24.	Bronchitis	....	25	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	....	9	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	3	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	11	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	....	2	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	13	18
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	....	3	1
34.	All other accidents	....	5	7
35.	Suicide	....	2	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	....	-	-